

Original Correspondence.

OFFICIAL SUPERVISION OF METALLIFEROUS MINES.

SIR.—Having just had an opportunity of perusing the "Metalliferous Mines Bill," introduced into the House of Lords a few days since, I am struck with astonishment at such a production emanating, as one must presume, from such gentlemen as Messrs. Kendal and Davey. From Lord Kinnaird and Dr. Holland it would have been, to a very limited extent, excusable; but for gentlemen who are interested in the county of Cornwall, and no doubt in mining also, to virtually hand over the sole management of all the metalliferous mines in the kingdom to any single official of the Board to be constituted, is an act so suicidal to mining, and so monstrous, that I am at a loss to understand it. The only appeal the unfortunate mine owners have, in case of supposed hardship, is to men who must be thoroughly ignorant of mines and mining; for instance, they must be in no way connected with mining, nor in any way whatsoever beneficially interested therein. (Query; where can they be found?)

Those officials have the power to order the erection of any kind of machinery, and to any amount of cost—how, when, and where they please—for raising and lowering the miners; of altering and reconstructing all footways to suit their notions, as often as they, in their wisdom, think proper; and, if they choose, may at any time prohibit the use of gunpowder in mines if they deem it dangerous to the miners, and from any of those things there is no appeal, not even the precious one aforementioned. A whole series of plans and sections must be sent to the Board periodically, (say) three or four times annually. This alone, in some mines, will require a corps of draughtsmen continually for the purpose. The Inspectors, too, have the power to call off the agents from their duties, either by day or by night, to examine them to any extent, for any length of time, and as often as they think proper, without any appeal. In short, the whole Act seems to be framed for the purpose of closing all metalliferous mines in the kingdom, which it will most certainly do if allowed to pass into law. If it were possible to find any mine proprietors so foolish as to work an extensive mine, and adopt the Act in its entirety, the same thing would utterly destroy all the pure air in the mine, and as a matter of course stop itself. I refer to the immense quantities of timber that would be required uselessly to be fixed, as it is well known to men of experience that large quantities of timber in close places very seriously vitiate the air; so that instead of the Act being a boon to the miner it will be a positive curse.

I beg to suggest, Mr. Editor, that you publish the Act *in extenso*, and ask all your mine subscribers to bear their equitable portion of the cost of advertising it. I think there will be no reluctance to pay it, and the mining public would be much enlightened thereby.

A WELL-WISHER TO MINING.

(As a "Well-Wisher to Mining" is so warm in his condemnation of the Bill, perhaps he will oblige by pointing out the objectionable clauses as they occur, and the grounds for objection, in a letter for next week's Journal, as Lord Kinnaird is most desirous that the merits of the Bill should be thoroughly discussed by those practically engaged in mining. In another column we publish a very full abstract of the Bill, which will, no doubt, answer the same purpose as reprinting it entire, as suggested.)

CORNISH MINES VALUATION.

SIR.—I should like very much to know upon what principle a Cornish mine is valued, or is there any principle at all? further than what Hudibras tells us, that "The value of a thing is just as much as it will bring." Looking at your Mining Share List, I notice many mines set down at hundreds of thousands of pounds; thus, Great Wheal Vor, 5908 shares, at 40/- per share—236,320/- Now, what is there to represent this sum? Is it plant? Is it reserve minerals, or what? I could understand a value being put on a favourable lease of a large mineral field, where the minerals are regular, such as coal or ironstone, or minerals won and explored, where the levels are driven both above and below it; but it appears to me to be reckless to calculate on the continuation of any lode. If we adopt this view, then the value of a mine will be the value of the plant and the value of the reserves. Thus, supposing there are (say) 50,000 tons of ore in reserve, which can be worked out at the rate of 12,000 tons a year. It is the present value of 50,000 tons of ore, spread over four years, and the value of the plant, and all else must be speculation. Now, the value of the plant is trifling. Thus, I suppose the whole machinery of the mine alluded to, for anything I know, may not be worth 36,000/-, and the reserves are worth 200,000. Are they worth that? or how much is put on the prospective value? It is an exceedingly unwise thing to keep on a capital or share account which has been all expended in driving unprofitable exploring levels. Such a thing is very apt to deceive. It is true the varying price of the shares gives the public an idea of the fluctuation in the value; still, many people who buy shares know little of the state of matters, until some fine morning the bubble bursts, and all that they have for their money is a few old engines and useless stock. I do not select Wheal Vor because of its worth, for of that I know nothing, but it is frequently mentioned in the Journal, and it serves to illustrate my remarks.

A COLLIER.

SLATE QUARRIES AS AN INVESTMENT; AND THE DIP OF MERIONETHSHIRE SLATE ROCK.

SIR.—I was no little surprised at seeing Dr. Bower's letter in the Journal of March 25. Inclined heretofore to put the best construction on his assertion that the dip (inclination of the rock) of Merionethshire slate veins is from 4° to 5°, or nearly horizontal, I thought he might have been at the Craig Ddu Quarry, where the dip is nearly horizontal, and had taken for granted that the dip of the whole range was the same. But I really cannot conjecture how to construe the assertion that Mr. Greaves's slate rock lies at an angle of from 4° to 5°. At where, pray, could the learned doctor have looked? It occurs to me that he looked at the floor of the gallery, saw a little inclination in it, and, without examination, took it to be the dip of the rock. If he had taken a minute inspection, he would have found the dip of Mr. Greaves's rock to be from 43° to 45°. Let us further examine the Doctor's reasons for saying that the dip of the Merioneth slate veins is chiefly so.

1.—He "asked Mr. Greaves's quarry captain whether the dip was generally the same in Merionethshire as theirs, and he said he thought it was, but it differed in some places." Now, with all respect due to Dr. Bower, it seems strange to me that a gentleman, who may have been for many years in the exercise of his profession accustomed to close reasoning, can call this a reason. It is not a reason, but a supposition; and not even a supposition of his own, but of Mr. Greaves's quarry captain. However, the supposition is not true. Let Dr. Bower instead of visiting one individual quarry visit the whole or greater part of them, and the result will be that, so far as I am acquainted, he will find only one instance of horizontal slate rock in Merionethshire, which is, as before stated, the Craig Ddu Quarry. This is, I consider, a most fortunate fact for Merionethshire; because a horizontal rock would be fully 10 per cent. more costly to work, and, from the specimens I have seen of it, much inferior to vertical and inclined rocks.

2.—That "I have seen the dip on the surface, I think, near Festiniog, but certainly about the boundary line between Merionethshire and Denbighshire." Here we certainly have a fact—such as it is—to take hold of. The Doctor has seen the dip of a rock; he does not exactly know whether in Merionethshire or Denbighshire, but somewhere about the boundary line. This, backed up by the word of Greaves's quarry captain, and the dip of Greaves's quarry, is considered as sufficient evidence in favour of its being the general Merioneth slate dip. But all three, awkwardly and unfortunately, turn out to be fallacious.

1.—Every tyro in quarrying matters could have informed the Doctor that the dip of the surface generally varies considerably from the true dip. Especially so when the superincumbent pressure is great, and the support deficient.

2.—Granting this was the true dip at that identical spot where the Doctor saw this top rock, it by no means follows that this is the general dip of the county. Two quarries may be opened on the same vein, within a few hundred yards of each other, and the dip vary considerably. Let us quote an instance, by way of illustration, in Merionethshire. Within about 300 yards of the Craig Ddu Quarry, before referred to, an old quarry has been opened where the dip is about 45°, while at Craig Ddu it is nearly horizontal.

3.—If the Doctor would come over to Llwyngwryl, in Merionethshire, and pay a visit to Dr. George Alfred Walker's quarry, we could show him a dip of 86°, or nearly vertical; and there are several of its neighbouring quarries of nearly the same dip. Dr. Walker, although distinguished in physic, has had but comparative short experience in the slate trade, yet he guessed the dip of the quarry within a few degrees; and it is strange that

an authority of Dr. Bower's standing should make so great an error. Again, if he chooses to visit the Corris Quarries, he will also find these of a vertical dip.

From these facts, we cannot but come to the inference that the horizontal dip is an exception, and an inclined and vertical one the rule in Merionethshire. In conclusion, I have to state that it is not from any love of controversy that I enter the field of discussion on this subject; and I have to express my deep regret that Dr. Bower, who may well be considered as an authority, and on whose judgment many may have relied, should have committed so great an error. More especially so when I am aware that amongst the many slate quarrying schemes offered to the uninitiated public, many of them worse than worthless, and others of a very valuable character, it is, I conceive, of the greatest importance that the judgment of the investor should be as little clouded as possible, and I think it is very deplorable that such conflicting statements should be made in what ought to be a very simple question; and that in this one, and highly important as it is (in the matter of economical slate quarrying), the bewildered public should be assisted in forming a correct judgment. And it is only on this ground, Sir, that I trouble you with this communication.

April 4.

SAMUEL JENKINS.

PROTECTION OF INVENTIONS AT INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS

SIR.—My attention has just been attracted to some remarks in your Notices to Correspondents, headed "Inventor," with regard to my strictures on the Acts passed for according what is termed protection to unpatented and unregistered inventions and designs first exhibited at the Dublin Exhibition, and industrial exhibitions generally. I fear "Inventor" has quite mistaken my views, for I am, in reality, quite as much disposed as he appears to be to favour the exhibition of new inventions and new designs, if the law allows it to be done *with safety*; but I differ from him as to there being any safety attainable under the above-named Acts, for, as I stated in my communication on the subject, that as regards the Dublin Exhibition, anyone who thinks it to his advantage to deprive the exhibitor of his right to take out a patent can do so simply by at once, and during the period of holding the exhibition, making use of the invention outside its doors. It is not a question of temporary injury by an unauthorised use, as "Inventor" seems to suppose—it is deprivation of all future protection for, and property in, the invention; and the same effect will be produced if any exhibition, publication, or use be continued after the Exhibition is closed. And this latter use will have the same effect under the General Industrial Exhibitions Act, unless, indeed, the exhibitor is able to protect himself under the Patent Laws before the Exhibition closes; and as these exhibitions do not remain open longer than a few weeks, it is by no means certain that money will be found for the purpose in that time. The sale or disposal of an inventor's rights *in posse* are not transactions which can be effected in a few minutes, by crying in the streets—"Who will buy, buy, buy?" Hence I look upon the exhibition of an invention implicitly relying on these Acts as placing all on the cast of a die. I have been an inventor myself, and can practically realise the true position of these matters. There are other flaws and blemishes in these Acts, which render them very untrustworthy, and I can see no effectual and simple plan of dealing with this matter but by supplementing the Acts by an enactment reducing the cost of provisional protection for Letters Patent. (As concerns designs, the provisional registration is now only 1s. for ornamental designs, and 10s. for utility designs.) At all events, the stamp duty on provisional protection for exhibited inventions, if applied for during the period of exhibition, should be permitted to stand over for some length of time, or the American caveat system should be allowed to exhibitors for a fee of 5s.

I am about to publish a pamphlet, in which I shall analyse the Acts, giving the enactments verbatim; and I shall be happy to forward a copy to "Inventor," upon perusal of which I think he will see that I am right. Temple, March 31.

F. W. CAMPIN.

CYLINDER FOUNDATIONS.

SIR.—Referring to Mr. Shepherd's communication, in the Supplement to last week's Journal, it appears his scheme was to sink a cylinder through the Goodwin Sands, to form a foundation for building upon. There is nothing new in sinking cylinders through quicksand; it is a common plan of sinking through quicksand, and I can point out a place where 20 fms. of quicksand and mud were put through 40 years ago by sinking cast-iron cylinders, put on at the surface, and pressed down with weights; and I doubt not it was resorted to much earlier.

SINKER.

THE LOCK-OUT IN THE IRON TRADE.

SIR.—It is to be hoped that some settlement will be made between the ironmasters and their men before another week passes, and thus save a great deal of misery amongst thousands who have the misfortune to be mixed up with the disputants—by no fault of their own, such as labourers and others more or less connected with the iron department. Doubtless, both parties are to blame—masters and men. The former have acted too hastily; in my opinion, they should have held consultations with their men, and stated what grievances they had, when doubtless some understanding would have resulted, to the satisfaction of all concerned. Of the two they are most to be blamed. The great point is now, which is the best way to settle matters? It is well known that the men of North Staffordshire refused to accept of the required reduction of 10 per cent. on the suggestion of the South Staffordshire executive, at Brierley Hill, who wished to make an experiment as to what effect it would have on the masters. The Gateshead or North of England executive fell in with the views of the Brierley Hill, and in conjunction agreed to render every support to the men in North Staffordshire; the latter, therefore, were not so much to blame up to a certain point. The ironmasters of South Staffordshire and North of England, fearing that if the men succeeded in one locality that they would soon be similarly situated, at once took steps to combat the powerful organisation of ironworkers and formed a league offensive and defensive, resulting in notices being given to all their workmen that if the puddlers of North Staffordshire did not resume work within fourteen days their works would be closed, and a general lock-out would be the result, the object being to starve the men to submission. The masters, I hasten not to state, acted wrong, and by so doing have injured themselves in the eyes of all who know anything of the iron trade, and can think honestly. With respect to the two executives of ironworkers—Gateshead and Brierley Hill—anyone who has read the speeches of the leading men since the lock-out, must be greatly pleased with the moderate course they have given to their friends of North Staffordshire, and the desire they evince for an amicable settlement. Unfortunately, the trades of London step in and mar such good intentions, by accusing the Brierley council of throwing the North Staffordshire men overboard, and then pass resolutions to afford more support to those men, in order, of course, to prolong the lock-out, though they pretend to be anxious to see an end to the dispute. I can readily perceive the motives which influence the ironworkers' executives from dispensing with the London trades pecuniary support, and in that matter they act wisely—seeing a little ahead. But not to extend my remarks at great length, I would suggest as the best means to bring the matter to a close that the executives of the ironworkers should make the following proposition to the men of North Staffordshire:—The advice we gave you of not acceding to the proposed reduction we have now reason to believe was not wise. We do not, therefore, attach any blame to you for acting upon our advice; but we now think that you can resume work upon the terms offered by the employers, considering all the circumstances of the case, which is somewhat peculiar. We will, on your resuming work from—say, Monday next, or such day as may be fixed upon, make up to each of you the whole amount of wages you might have been able to earn (an average being taken for that purpose) from the day of your leaving off work. Such a proposition would, I think, meet the case, and be satisfactory to all parties. The men of North Staffordshire are, in my humble opinion, entitled to such remuneration, and the two executives in honour bound to pay the same. I am much surprised that a proportion of the kind was not made. When all are at work again some plan can be devised for any future disagreements, rules, &c., framed, which may meet with the concurrence of masters and men, and arbitrators appointed having the confidence of both parties. I earnestly trust that such may speedily be the case, and that my little mite may be looked at in its proper light, as a kind of balancing of masters and men, and may the "oil thrown on troubled waters" diffuse a spirit of calmness around.—Sunderland Valley, March 29.

AN ACCOUNTANT.

PUBLIC COMPANIES' PURCHASES.

SIR.—It seems to be an almost general practice with shareholders to complain, after the establishment of a company for commercial purposes, of the terms upon which the business has been purchased, and thus it is that by far too many capitalists feel that all property bought by public companies is paid more for than it is fairly worth. Although, of course, there may be cases in which this complaint would apply, I believe it is only in very rare instances, and that as a rule the promoters of an undertaking, who are usually dependent upon its success for their remuneration, will see that the purchase money is not put too high, in order that they may be enabled to present an attractive prospectus to the public. The course adopted in making the valuation for the purchase of Messrs. Cammell's Cyclo Works, by Charles Cammell and Co. (Limited) appears to me, as a shareholder, as fair as any that could have been adopted. As it was, of course, desirable for all parties that the appraisement should be one that could not afterwards be objected to, the work of valuation was split up into three divisions, and for each division two valuers were nominated—one to represent the seller, Mr. Cammell, and one to represent the buyer, the company; and the principles upon which the valuation was to be made were clearly defined. When the appraisement had been completed, Mr. Lepcopic, and one or two others, asked to have the valuation of one of the divisions reopened and revised, on the ground that they thought the appraisement too high. Mr. Cammell objected, basing his objection on the fact that both parties had been represented in the appraisement, and that since both the valuers were agreed as to the amount there was no just cause why that amount should be called in question. The party of Mr. Lepcopic, however, continued to urge the appointment of a third party, and in order to satisfy them Mr. Cammell consented that an arbitrator should be appointed—Mr. Anderson, the inspector of machinery at Woolwich Dockyard, being suggested as the person

to whom the reference should be made. The proposition naturally met with the higher approval, both of Mr. Cammell's friends and the opposition, and there is now unanimity with every member of the company—the fear of litigation which seems to be the case.

Now, we have an instance of a dispute most amicably and satisfactorily settled, by the inconsistency of a few dissatisfied shareholders, and without the existence of any real cause of complaint against the company? Had Mr. Cammell obstinately refused the arbitration, as he most justly could have done, inasmuch as the bargain being made it is most unreasonable to expect that a smaller payment would be accepted. The company would have been thrown into litigation, and the business probably ruined. The very liberal behaviour, however, of Mr. Cammell in the matter has placed the company in an even higher position than it has hitherto occupied, for it affords indisputable proof of the great interest taken by him in the welfare of the company, and it must be peculiarly gratifying to all concerned to find that Mr. Wilson, the managing director, is enabled to report the solid progress of the business, that every department of the work was constantly in full operation, and that the total sales for this had greatly exceeded those of last year. He also explained that the lock-out in the iron trade had not in any material extent affected the business of this company, and that there were reasonable prospects of an early re-opening of the mills and works. In conclusion, he tested in the highest terms to the efficiency of the staff by whom he was so ably supported as we may well await, without anxiety, the general meeting, to be held in May.

Manchester, April 3.

A SHAREHOLDER.

COLLIERY WORKINGS IN SOUTH WALES.

SIR.—Mr. Naysmith appears very uncomfortable in his replies to my letters. He now states that I admit having spent 2000/- in opening, or rather, as he has it, to "shut up the colliery." I do not find having said any such thing. Will he refer me to such an admission in any one of my letters? He also assures us that he has not spent 2000/- at his Bedlam Colliery. I am inclined to admit the truth of his statement, but if only 1000/- had been spent, with his extensive colliery operations, I fear this colliery would be something like the silver-lead mine bound up in red tape, and laid up in lavender, to some pigeon-hole in Chancery-lane. But when he speaks of shutting up, I must hear what I have to say on that subject. I could not imagine why a colliery is so frequently shut up with the Cwm Neol Colliery Company. I hope he does not wish to mix my name up with that company. I certainly was not aware of the existence of such a colliery company until I was reminded of it by one of the "Local Fraternity." I have before me the copies of the leases of the Cwm Neol Colliery Company. I have also the seams of coal and other minerals on this property, and when this colliery commenced operations I should say no body of gentlemen ever had brighter prospects before them, had they gone the right way to work. But lo! "A lion from the tribe of the North" appeared—at least he pronounced himself a lion; he would show them all about it, and how to work a colliery. The Abercarn and Cwm Ammanwicks bowed their heads before this northern lion; but, whether a lion or not, the management of the splendid property was entrusted to his charge. There was a good market for the coal, a railway to the colliery—in fact, all that could be desired to make it a good paying concern, and its proprietors happy.

There was a range of coal 6 ft. thick, over 281 acres, without a fault, capable of yielding 6000 tons of coal to the acre, or 1,860,000 tons of coal, in one 6-ft. seam alone. In ten years only about 500,000 tons of coal were sold, and this 6-ft. seam was reported to be exhausted, or—

Total quantity of coal	1,860,000 tons.
Coals sold	500,000 "
Coals lost	1,360,000 tons.
If we take the entire loss at—say, 1,000,000 tons, we have the following results in shape of loss to the proprietors of the property, to the owners or lessees of the colliery, and to the wealth of the nation at large, or—	
1,000,000 tons at 1s. per ton royalty	£ 50,000
10s. per ton, less royalty, the value of the coal....	450,000
Loss" to the proprietors in ten years, in cash	84,000
Total	£ 584,000.

All this ruin occurred in the short space of ten years; at the end of that period the seam of coal, over the 281 acres was supposed "used up." Now, this is something like shutting up. If I only spent 2000/- to again shut up this colliery I certainly did it very cheap. The original leases, I believe, returned to land, from whence they came added to the wealth of the nation at large, or—

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What do gentlemen think of a captain being sent to inspect a mine, and on doing so write to condemn the floors, that a large quantity of timber should

seen our lode where the lead has been discovered, affirmed last Saturday, that he saw nothing better in the adit at West Chiverton than we have in the adit here, and gave it as his decided opinion that this lode is, from its present appearance, and from the appearance of the ground about it, as likely to be rich in depth as that on which such a valuable mine has been already opened up. An important feature in this lode is its evidently regular and porous character, which is remarkable in rich lead lodes. It has completely drained the fine surface stream 100 fathoms east of our workings, and we have evidence that it is draining for upwards of 300 fms. in length. This is a most favourable indication for the production of lead. The adit is still being driven south as fast as possible, and we have a large stream of water issuing from the end. It is in 10 fms. from the last lode, and we expect to reach another lode within three weeks; it is highly probable that this water is flowing from it. The stratum is most congenial for lead, but we shall be very fortunate indeed if we find it again so shallow. What we want is an engine to put us down 50 or 60 fms., to prove the lodes and see where the runs of lead are, and we require it now. While there is everything in our prospects to warrant the erection of an engine at once, there are important facilities for doing so, for we have an excellent quarry open on the mine, where, from its appearance, we could get all the stone we want, which, as it is easily drawn, and there is scarcely any carriage, would effect a saving of at least 2000. in the building department; besides, in the fine weather that may now be expected, we could get on much faster with the work than in winter. The cost of pitwork will, of course, be determined by the size, &c.; but when the engine is set to work the labour cost of sinking the shaft will be very little more than it has been in driving the adit ends, and the whole cost, including the working of the engine, would probably be covered by an additional 50/- per month, exclusive of pitwork, until we get down to drive levels. From the present appearance of the ground, we could sink from 30 to 40 fms. in twelve months after the engine is working; and having the greatest confidence of opening up a good mine, we recommend an engine at once. We have not seen the cross lode, and do not know where it may be thrown by the strong east and west lodes in which it is intersected, but would put down a shaft with special reference to the lode in which we have lead, and to command three other lodes, which are included in a width of little more than 50 fms.—J. NANCARROW, J. GEORGE.

Upon the motion of the CHAIRMAN and Mr. ALCOCK, it was resolved that the shares forfeited at the preceding meeting be sold by auction.

The following committee of management was then elected for the ensuing three months:—Sir W. Smith, Bart., Mr. Lelean, Mr. Wills, Mr. Alcock, and Mr. Millford.

Mr. Berry was appointed solicitor to the company, and the meeting, which appeared to be much gratified by the reported condition of the mine, then gave a unanimous vote of thanks to the Chairman for his able and impartial conduct in the chair, and was dissolved.

NERBUDDA COAL AND IRON COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of shareholders was held at the London Tavern, on Thursday,—Mr. HAYMAN in the chair.

Mr. H. HEATH (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting.

The report of the directors stated that, in consequence of the decease of Mr. Bateman, the Indian accounts for November and December, 1864, had not yet come to hand. Unsatisfactory accounts having reached the board respecting their acting manager, they requested their secretary to proceed to the colliery, and take temporary charge. The board, meanwhile, secured the services of Mr. Bateman, a mining engineer of great experience, from South Wales, as manager, who left England on September 10, for the mines, *via* Calcutta. The secretary, in his report, states that the company possess the only thick seams of good coal in this part of India. From a knowledge of the great difficulties to be overcome in first opening a coal field in the jungle, all which Mr. Blackwell had to encounter, there is no doubt, even should any of the thin seams existing in different spots be worked, it could never be a profit, nor without the same years of labour the company have had to expend to attain their present working condition. All who have visited the colliery express but one opinion—that the coal is good, and that there is abundance of it. At the present time they can raise 200 tons of coal per week, which (if necessary) could be trebled in a few months, and there is no doubt that the company possesses here a most valuable property. From the advanced state of the bridges and viaducts between Shapoor and Bhasawali, the railway will, probably, be open to the former place in about two years and a half. This is the opinion gathered from several engineers on the line. It will then be only thirty-four miles from the colliery, twelve of which will be their own branch line. The board have received the melancholy intelligence of Mr. Bateman's decease, after a residence at the works of only three weeks. The directors have secured an manager a gentleman already in India, who, from having resided there some years, during which he was manager of a colliery, is well fitted for the post in every respect. By the last advices from the works, the coal seams have been struck on the other, or eastern, side of the great fault. There is no doubt of the field being of great extent, and the completion of the main line, even as far as Gurnawarn, will afford an outlet for all the coal that can be raised for some time to come. As the railways in Western India approach completion, the demand for coal and its value will become greater; in proof of this the directors would refer to the report of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, dated November 4, 1864, from which they extract the following:—“The cost of fuel, however, was materially greater last half-year, the 21,548 tons 12 cwt., consumed having cost 53,555. 5s. 4d. (or 27. 9s. 6d. nearly per ton), against 23,974. 11s. the cost of the 13,102 tons 18 cwt. (or 17. 18s. 1d. per ton), used in the half-year to June 30, 1863.”

The CHAIRMAN having referred to the different points in the report, said that at present they could do nothing more than carry on the necessary works until the railway was opened, when profits from the sales of coal would, no doubt, amply repay the shareholders for their patience and outlay. He moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. WYLDE seconded the proposition.

Mr. VILLEBROOKS questioned whether the railway would be finished in two years and a half up to within thirty-six miles of the mines?—The CHAIRMAN had no doubt that it would be completed.

Mr. FOSTER (a director) said that the company's collieries had been laid out in a most scientific manner, and the amount that had thus been expended—14,000/- or 15,000/-—was simply capital invested, and would presently prove to be more profitable than had been invested at interest. He mentioned that he had accidentally met the engineers of the Great India Peninsula Railway, who had made several experiments upon the Nerbudda coal, and those engineers informed him when the railway would make nearer to the collieries, they and their friends would become large shareholders in the company.

Mr. BLACKWELL (the consulting engineer) drew attention to the importance of the fact that they had gone through the large “fault” which crossed the workings, and that coal of excellent quality had been found on the other side.

The report was received and adopted unanimously, and the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

LUSITANIAN MINING COMPANY.

The eleventh annual general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Queen-street-place, yesterday, Mr. R. HENTY in the chair.

Mr. W. G. WILLIAMS (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting. The accounts showed that the operations at the Palhal Mine, during the twelve months ending Sept. 30, 1864, had resulted in a profit of 6010. 9s. 1d., while during the same period at the Carvalhal Mine there had been a balance of expenditure of 8194. 1s. 1d.

The directors' report states that the operations of the company for the 12 months ending Sept. 30 have resulted much more favourably than the directors ventured to anticipate at the time of the last general meeting. The directors are glad to state that the whole of the profit from the Palhal Mine has been actually realized, as all the ores for which credit is taken in the costs and returns accounts have arrived in this country, and been sold. This gratifying result, so much in excess of the profits of former years—indeed, the largest profit which has been obtained in any one year since the commencement of the company—is due to the increased quantities of ore obtained, to the augmented richness of the same, both in copper and silver, and to the decreased expense of raising, dressing, and shipping the produce. This diminution in the costs has been effected, in a great measure, by the new machinery erected within the past two or three years, the whole of the outlay upon which it will be perceived has been provided out of the profits made. The quantity of copper ore produced for the 12 months referred to has been 1478 tons, and the average price at which the same has been sold is 122. 14s. 7d.; for the previous year the quantity was 1261 tons, and the price obtained 112. 2s. 7d.; the increase is, therefore, 217 tons in quantity, and 12. 12s. 3d. per ton in price; and it may be mentioned that such excess of price for last year's ore was not due to any better state of the metal market, but almost entirely to the superior quality of the ores. The balance remaining to the credit of profit and loss account, on Sept. 30, 1864, after providing 3585. 10s. 2d. for new machinery, and after the distribution in July last of 17251. 11s. 9d. for a dividend, &c., was 43281. 3s. 1d.; but out of this latter amount the directors made a further distribution in January last of 25881. 7s. 8d., as follows:—

25881. 16s. 9d. to the reserved fund, 792. 0s. 1d. Mr. Pinto Basto for his percentage, 1500/- for dividend of 3s. per share, and 371. 10s. for income tax: total amount, 25881. 7s. 8d.

The balances, therefore, remaining at the present time are—to the credit of the current year's operations the directors have also much pleasure in reporting most favourably. The returns of ore from the Palhal Mine for the last five months have exceeded by 70 tons the quantity for the corresponding period of the preceding year, whilst the expenses for the same time have been somewhat under the average for the same period for the last three years. There is, therefore, little doubt that satisfactory profits will be continued to be made for some time to come. The expenditure at the Carvalhal Mine has during the past year been limited to works connected with the preparations necessary for the new machinery which it has been decided to furnish for the purpose of properly developing the property. A new water-wheel, and other apparatus, have lately been made in this country, and are now in course of shipment to Portugal. The superintendent writes that the works at the mine for receiving the machinery are progressing favourably, and all the different contracts which have been completed have been executed substantially and economically. It is hoped that during the month of June next the water-wheel will be available for the drainage of the mine. Only a small quantity of ore can be expected from it during the current year, but in the following one favourable results will be confidently looked for. In conclusion, the directors beg to congratulate the shareholders on the present position and prospects of the company, and to express their belief of being enabled to declare another dividend in the month of July next.

The CHAIRMAN having moved the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the directors had never met the proprietors under more satisfactory and encouraging circumstances, for they had not hitherto been in a position to submit such favourable reports. At the same time, however, they had never met under circumstances of more grief than upon the present occasion, owing to the lamented decease of their excellent and able colleague, Mr. W. L. Lowndes.

Mr. NAIL seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. RICHARD TAYLOR explained the different points of operation, and, referring to the Palhal Mine, stated that the ore had improved in quality, both as regards copper and silver, and that by an improved means of working, substituting the admirable water-power for all purposes for that of horse-power, they were working so cheaply that during the past twelve months the cost had only been 100/- in excess of that during the preceding year, while the returns had been increased to the value of nearly 5000/-.

The machinery was in good working order, and of sufficient power to carry them down to a depth of 140 to 150 fms.

As regards the prospects of the mine, although they had been somewhat disappointed by the failing off of the lode in the 80, in sinking the engine-shaft the fine course of ore had been found to continue to the deepest point of operation, some fathoms below the 90. He also mentioned there had been some improvement in the eastern part, and that in the western part, where Basto's lode had been cut off by a slide, the lode had been found to continue, from which he hoped considerable aid would be derived.

As regards Carvalhal Mine, he mentioned that the lode contained a large proportion of silver, so that if it were found in any quantity it would yield considerable profits.

All he could say was that the prospects of the company were very encouraging, and that the mines were in a complete and efficient state of working.

The report was received and adopted.

Mr. J. M. P. Loran was re-elected director, and the filling up of the vacancy ce-

sasioned by the decease of Mr. Lowndes was deferred to a special meeting to be held for that purpose.—Mr. W. T. Fawcett was re-elected auditor.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Chairman and directors, and to the managers, Messrs. Taylor, when the proceedings terminated.

EAST JANE MINING COMPANY.

A general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Broad-street-buildings, on Tuesday.—Mr. SUNDRIDGE in the chair.

Mr. WARD (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting, and the minutes of the last were approved.

A statement of accounts for the four months, ending with February cost, was submitted, from which the following is condensed:

Balance last audit	£ 775 4 2
Mine cost (Nov. to Feb.)	998 4 3
Merchants' bills	843 4 6
Road to mine, &c.	27 10 0
Discount on calls	56 17 10
Incidental expenses	2 10 6
Call	£1075 7 6
Sale of ores	155 17 8 = 1381 5 2

Leaving debit balance £1482 15 1

The report of the agent (Capt. Thomas Hodge), dated April 1, stated that the returns of ore for the next three months must in a great measure depend upon the ground between the 26 and 36, where, from what could be seen of it now, they believed, would be enabled to make a considerable increase. The backs of the 26 had not turned out so well as the level, and they, therefore, believed that level to have been at the top of a good run of ore, in more settled ground than was met with in the upper levels, where the lode was very irregular. They had pleasure in stating that both the pumping and drawing-engines were working satisfactorily and economically.

The report of Mr. T. C. Gregory, F.G.S., stated that he had full confidence in the present management, and that his faith in the mine had never abated. He believed that the returns would regularly increase, until they exceeded the costs and left profits.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing that the report of the agents be entered on the minutes, and that the accounts be passed and allowed, drew attention to the fact that although the expenditure had been heavier than expected, the mine had recently undergone a great change for the better, which justified the shareholders in hoping that they had before them a much brighter career.

A SHAREHOLDER said that while they all knew it was impossible to speak with certainty with regard to the result of any mining operations, yet from every indication presented, as well as from every opinion expressed, there seemed good reason to believe that the outlay of a little more capital, with a little more patience, would prove East Jane to be a productive mine.—The motion was put and carried.

The CHAIRMAN said the committee were unanimous in the recommendation that a call should be made, and, therefore, he would propose a resolution to that effect, which was put and carried.—The committee of management were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. Banks, who resigned. Upon the question of the appointment of an office of reference in Glasgow, it was agreed that the consideration of the subject should be deferred. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

BRYNTAIL MINING COMPANY.

A meeting of adventurers was held on March 31, at the offices of the company, in Old Broad-street,—Mr. JOHN EDMONDS in the chair.

The report of the resident agent, Capt. Roach, stated that in the 30 fm. level east the indications were such as to lead any miner to expect early and important discoveries, particularly as so much ore had been extracted from the back of the lode in several places to the east of the present operations. The labour cost, apart from salaries, &c., for the next three months, is estimated at 83/- per month.

A special report from Capt. T. Goldsworthy, of Ponterwyd Mine, Aberystwith, stated that the 20 fm. level east had been driven about 20 fms. from the new engine-shaft, the first 16 fms. of which had been poor and unproductive, but in the last 4 fms. the lode had greatly improved. This level is recommended to be driven with all possible speed, in anticipation of early remunerative results. The 30 fm. level west, driven about 18 fms. from shaft, has greatly improved in the last few feet, and appears to be approaching the bunch of ore going down in the level above. The 20 fm. level west is driven about 39 fms. from shaft, the first 10 fms. of which proved poor; after which, for about 7 fms., the lode was worth about 1½ tons per fathom. Some very fine stones of lead have been raised from a winze sunk here 3 fms. deep, but the bottom could not now be seen, from the accumulation of water. The 20 is driven east about 50 fms. from shaft; the end poor and the lode small. In conclusion, Capt. Goldsworthy recommended that the present drivages in the 20 and 30 fm. levels east should be prosecuted with the utmost speed, when, under the old mine, some good bunches of ore will, in all probability, be met with. He considered the engine-shaft to be of sufficient depth to test the value of the property, and that if the above levels are fully developed, east and west, the mine will prove a profitable concern.

The accounts for four months, ending Feb. 28, showing a debit balance of 5182. 2s. 2d., a call of 5s. per share was made.

A motion for a reduction of the number of the committee of management from four to three was negatived on a show of hands, whereupon the present committee—Messrs. Cumberland, Edmonds, Proctor, and Rye, were re-elected until next general meeting.

TRUTH'S ECHOES, OR SAYINGS AND DOINGS IN MINING.

The Mining Share Market has been more active this week, and, in the aggregate, a moderate amount of business appears to have been transacted. Improvements in several mines have been reported, which has created a good demand for the respective shares.

WHEAL SETONS have been in fair request, and dealt in at minimum quotations.—CLIFFORDS have been more freely sought for, and slightly improved.—EAST CARN BREA has changed hands at higher rates, but slight variations have followed.—SOUTH CONDURROWS have been daily and extensively dealt in, and prices have improved.—WHEAL BULLERS have met with good demand, and likely to further advance.—EAST BULLERS have shared in the transactions of the week.—WHEAL BASSETTS are still in fair request, whilst EAST BASKETS are less active.—COOK'S KITCHEN and TINCROFT pay about the same rate, although the former is slightly improved prices.—GREAT LAKES continue to command attention, and are apparently firm at present figures.—GREAT NORTH LAKES are still dealt in, but prices have receded.—EAST GRENVILLE and WHEAL GRENVILLE have not been quite so active this week, but appear firm at present quotations.—SOUTH GRENVILLES are sought for at buyers' prices.—NORTH TREASERBYS are in good demand, at fair market figures.—GREAT NORTH DOWNS are still in request, at buyers' prices.

WHEAL ROSE shares have been dealt at advanced rates, but have since slightly receded.—NORTH DOUGLATHS have been in good demand, consequent on a reported improvement in the mine.—TREASERBYS have been freely sought for at fair market rates, but found very scarce, notwithstanding incredible efforts to depress the share price, and few indications have followed.—EAST RUSSELLS are a little better, and several transactions effected at higher figures.—WHEAL CRODRYS are apparently firm, but have not been so freely dealt in this week.—BOTTLE HILLS have changed hands at nominal prices.

EAST CADSON.—As anticipated last week by the change of ground that the 90 crossed was near the lode, they have now intersected the new lode, and cut into it from 3 ft. to 4 feet; it is worth full 10/- per fm., but from the great influx of water, and other indications, there is reason to believe the counter lode is just ahead. The counter lode in the 80 west has improved, and now worth 15/- per fm.; the same level east is still worth 20/- per fm. All other places continue the same.

HAWKMOOR.—The western part of this mine is represented to hold out considerable promise, as there are several lodes, all of which carry tin on their backs. No. 3 lode has been for a long time producing some excellent work. They have recently intersected No. 4 lode, which is of a most promising nature, and yielding some good work; and, from the general character of the several lodes, there is every reason to calculate on a productive and paying mine should the operations recommended be carried out with that spirit so essential to the development of a permanent mine. The stopes in the 25 are still yielding good copper ore, worth 1½ tons per fm. They sampled on Friday last 22 tons of copper ore, and will have a parcel of tin for sale in about a month.

MAUDLINS.—The operations are progressing very satisfactorily. They are not yet through the cross-course in the 70 end, but, from the appearances presented, there is every reason to anticipate a large and productive lode on the other side. They have commenced taking down the lode in the back of the 70, where it is worth 60/- per fm. The report of Capt. D. of Carn Brea, fully confirms the official reports on the prospects and position of the mine.

NORTH JANE.—The prospects are represented to be daily improving, and from all appearances are likely to result in a productive and permanent mine. The 12 fm. level above, west of North's, is opening out remarkably well; the lode is large, of a most promising character, and yielding large rocks of rich tin, with every probability of a good run of ground not far ahead. The stopes in the 40, east and west of Kerr's shaft, are worth together 14/- per fathom. The 10 fm. level end is driving in a lode of great promise. They sold on Saturday last 1627. worth of tin, being the produce of the month's working, and have about 207. worth of tin in hand for sale. The tribute pitches have improved, and large sales are, consequently, anticipated.

NORTH TREASERBY is looking better than for some time past. The lode in the 110 east has improved, and, from the influx of water in the end, is likely to draw the level above, when they will be able to resume sinking the winze, which is worth 40/- per fm.; and they expect shortly to get under the course of ore gone down from the 100. The 100 east is disordered by the bar of ground which has been seen above, and proved obstructive for the time. The western end is worth 14/- per fathom. There is a good lode in the 77, which has varied from 12/- to 30/- per fathom; and the prospects of the mine have very considerably improved.

ground is about 8 fms. long, Capt. Daw values it at 60/- per fm. At Coombe, they are driving in ground found to be highly favourable for the production of mineral, and in the West mine they have got the shaft down 5 fms., in ground which has been very hard, but which is now better for sinking. We shall not have long to wait, for some further fine discoveries at more than one point in these mines. The DEVON AND CORNWALL UNITED is opening out most favourably at all points, and promises to become a rich mine. They are about sampling 450 tons of ore, and they have to drive only about 20 fms. in the 24 west to bring them under the roof of ore ground they had in the adit level, which was worth 100/- per fathom. The GREAT SOUTH CHIVERTON presents the most encouraging and satisfactory aspect it has yet done, as will be seen by a reference to the report of Capt. John Nancy, now George, presented at the meeting of shareholders on Thursday last; and the anticipations which have been formed from present appearances being confirmed by an experienced lead miner, who worked on the first discoveries in West Chiverton, and who affirms that he saw nothing better in the adit there than he sees in the adit here, and that the lode just discovered is as likely to be as rich in depth as that is, must be deemed very satisfactory to all who are interested in the mine. Whether the lode turns out to be, as was thought, a new lode, or the middle east and west lode, is of little consequence, practically and economically; it has that precious character which is remarkable in rich lead lodes, and while it is draining for upwards of 300 fms., it resembles in the 8 fms. they have driven upon it the fine samples sent up to the preceding meeting. The EAST TRESEBURY, EAST LAXXY, REINNIE LAXXY, EAST SNARELL, NORTH MINERA, and BEDFORD UNITED are all in good report, and the state of the market, which is now recovering itself, should tempt purchasers while shares are to be had at comparatively low prices.

FOREIGN MINES.

EAST DEL REY.—Under date Feb. 28, Capt. W. Treloar writes that it has rained incessantly for four weeks; rivers have overflowed, brooks and rivulets become impassable, and the mining operations suffered from landslips. The erection of the new stamping-mill progresses favourably, the bearers, cells, and stands have been prepared and fixed in their places for carrying the water-wheel, and the masons are now busily at work upon the wheel-pit. While the new stamps are in hand, and the works so much interrupted, the produce will be small; yet this he hopes will not be of long duration. The produce for the month was 1100 tons.

SANTA BARBARA.—Capt. Bryant:—Reduction Department:—

Stamped from Jan. 20 to Feb. 20:—

No. 1 steps and bottoms 221 tons yield 968 oits.; average, 4.28 oits. per ton.
No. 2, bottom of adit south 293 tons yield 1059 oits.; average, 3.716 oits. per ton.

Total 514 tons	2057 oits.
Sand re-stamped 240 tons	
Refuse stone 50=804 tons.	
January gold 2190 oits.	

Gold on the mine 4247 oits.

The average produce per ton, including sand, would be 4 oits., the highest produce yet obtained. In the mine there is no alteration in the size and appearance of the lode; but I am sorry to have to report so small a quantity of stone raised during this month. We have had an extraordinary amount of rain, which has found its way into the mine, and increased the water to such an extent that it has greatly impeded our progress; for several days it was so much that it required all the time to keep it under, and we were not able to get any stone from the bottom. The weather now has cleared off to a certain extent, the coming water has abated, and I hope in a few days will so far off as to admit of our drawing stone again in the usual way. We have had an increase of water from heavy floods previously, but not to such an extent, and have hitherto found a few days' dry weather remedied the evil, and no doubt it will have the same effect now.

The following is a letter received, and read at the meeting held on March 17:—In compliance with your request to be furnished with a statement respecting the Pari Mine, I have the pleasure to give you a report, not only of what came under my observation during my four days' sojourn on the spot in August last year, but also the facts which came to my knowledge from time to time during my residence of 20 years in the neighbourhood of the property. I give you the following as the only account my little knowledge of quartz mining will admit of:—I went over a piece of ground south of, and adjoining, that part of the mine from which ore was then extracted; it was at that time 23 fms. in length and 2 fms. in width, and at the deepest part, about 6 ft. below the adit or tram level. This part of the Pari Mine, which was always considered by the former proprietors to be the most auriferous section, had been choked up during the last 12 years in consequence of the fall of part of the overhanging mountain. When I was there, in August last, it was nearly cleared of the mud and debris, and it was expected that in about a fortnight after they would be enabled to commence quarrying mineral. The lode looked then most promising, apparently as good as any seen elsewhere in Minas Geraes, arsenical pyrites predominating, and showing but a very small quantity of hornblende, which latter it is well known does not contain any gold. A large piece, weighing about 20 lbs., was broken from the lode in my presence, which I brought to England, and you are aware the result of the assay of it was very satisfactory. I found the lode in the deep mine 9 ft. wide, and looking very promising, and the same I observed to be the case with the bottom part of the stope north. The lode was running nearly north and south, and underlying east, at an angle of about 40°. The deepest part of the mine was then 22 fathoms on the underlie, reckoning from the adit or tram-road level. Upon that occasion I witnessed the clearing up of the amalgam for the month of August, and which yielded 1468 oits. of gold. After what I had seen I considered I was perfectly justified in my arrival in this country in November last year in prognosticating, as I did to you and others interested in this very legitimate speculation, a gradual increase of produce, and it is not necessary to point out how far it has been verified when looking at the yields of gold for the months of December and January, which proved an increase of nearly 80 per cent. over the month of August. Looking at the present state of operations at Pari, the steady and persevering efforts of the company's able and experienced superintendent, and those working with him, and the rapid preparations now making, as I am given to understand, for increasing the stamping-power, it ought not to be a matter of doubt in its proper time, and not very far distant, that we attach great importance to it. In Padillo's winze the lode is improving.—General Remarks: The tribute department is still yielding the usual quantity of mineral. The machinery is in good working order. We estimate the raisings for April at 400 tons.

LINARES.—**Pozo Ancho Mine**—West of Engine-shaft: **South Lode**: In the 110, west of No. 138 winze, the lode is very wide, chiefly composed of calcareous spar and lead ore. The lode in the 61, west of Santana's winze, is again improving; in consequence of the fall of part of the overhanging mountain. When I was there, in August last, it was nearly cleared of the mud and debris, and it was expected that in about a fortnight after they would be enabled to commence quarrying mineral. The lode looked then most promising, apparently as good as any seen elsewhere in Minas Geraes, arsenical pyrites predominating, and showing but a very small quantity of hornblende, which latter it is well known does not contain any gold. A large piece, weighing about 20 lbs., was broken from the lode in my presence, which I brought to England, and you are aware the result of the assay of it was very satisfactory. I found the lode in the deep mine 9 ft. wide, and looking very promising, and the same I observed to be the case with the bottom part of the stope north. The lode was running nearly north and south, and underlying east, at an angle of about 40°. The deepest part of the mine was then 22 fathoms on the underlie, reckoning from the adit or tram-road level. Upon that occasion I witnessed the clearing up of the amalgam for the month of August, and which yielded 1468 oits. of gold. After what I had seen I considered I was perfectly justified in my arrival in this country in November last year in prognosticating, as I did to you and others interested in this very legitimate speculation, a gradual increase of produce, and it is not necessary to point out how far it has been verified when looking at the yields of gold for the months of December and January, which proved an increase of nearly 80 per cent. over the month of August. Looking at the present state of operations at Pari, the steady and persevering efforts of the company's able and experienced superintendent, and those working with him, and the rapid preparations now making, as I am given to understand, for increasing the stamping-power, it ought not to be a matter of doubt in its proper time, and not very far distant, that we attach great importance to it. In Padillo's winze the lode is improving.—General Remarks: The tribute department is still yielding the usual quantity of mineral. The machinery is in good working order.

ALAMILLOS.—**March 25:** In the 4th level, east of San Juan shaft, the lode contains small and unproductive. The lode in the 3d level, west of San Martin shaft, has improved; it is chiefly composed of sulphate of barytes, carbonate of lime, and spar and lead ore. The lode in the 61, west of Crosby's shaft, is small. In the cross-cut north from Crosby's shaft, in the 61, we have intersected two small branches, but they are not of any actual value.—**East of Engine-shaft:** In the 110, east of engine-shaft, we have put the men to open the north side. The lode in the 65, east of No. 144 winze, contains stones of lead, but not enough to value.—**North Lode:** In the 85, east of No. 125 winze, there is no improvement.—Shafts and Winzes: The men in Santa Tomas engine-shaft are making good progress. In Warne's shaft we have a good party of men, and we hope to make good dispatch in getting it down. In the 75, Field's shaft is off the lode, and the granite is hard for sinking. The lode in No. 144 winze is again improving, and being in advance of the 116 we attach great importance to it. In Padillo's winze the lode is improving.—General Remarks: The tribute department is still yielding the usual quantity of mineral. The machinery is in good working order.

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The Mining Market; Prices of Metals, Ores, &c.

METAL MARKET—LONDON, APRIL 7, 1863.

COPPER.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Best selected, p. ton	99 0 0	91 0 0
Tough cake	88 0 0	81 0 0
Tins	88 0 0	81 0 0
Burns Burns	92 0 0	84 0 0
Copper wire	9 1 0	1 0 1 0
dittotubes	0 1 0	0 1 0
Sheathing & bolts p. ton	94 0 0	95 0 0
Bottoms	100 0 0	97 0 0
Old (Exchange)	91 0 0	91 0 0
IRON.	Per Ton.	
Bars Welsh, in London	7 2 6	7 10 0
Ditto, to arrive	7 2 6	7 10 0
Mail rods	8 10 0	—
St. Stafford, in London	8 10 0	9 15 0
Bars ditto	9 0 0	11 0 0
Hoops ditto	9 12 6	10 10 0
Sheets, single	10 7 6	11 1 0 0
Pig No. 1, in Wales	4 10 0	—
Refined metal, ditto	4 0 0	5 0 0
Bars, common, ditto	6 0 0	6 5 0
Do., merch., Tyne or Tess	7 10 0	—
Ditto, railway, in Wales	6 0 0	6 10 0
Ditto Swed, in London	12 0 0	—
To arrive	12 0 0	—
Fig. No. 1, in Clydes	2 13 2	2 18 6
Ditto, f.o.b. Tyne or Tess	2 9 6	—
Ditto, Nos. 3, 4, f.o.b. do.	2 6 6	2 5 6
Railway chairs	5 10 0	6 15 0
spikes	11 0 0	12 0 0
LEAD.		
English Pig, ordn. soft	20 5 0	—
Ditto (W.H.)	21 12 6	—
Ditto sheet	21 6 0	—
Ditto red lead	22 0 0	—
Ditto white	26 0 0	26 5 0
Ditto patent shot	23 0 0	—
Spaniard	19 10 0	—

* At the works, 1s. to 1s. 6d. per box less.

REMARKS.—The Metal Market during the past week has not shown any marked change from the position it has maintained for some weeks past, and we have still to record that much less business is being done than is satisfactory to those parties principally concerned in the metal trade. We trust that the resolution come to by the ironmasters at their meeting, at Wolverhampton, to re-open their works in South Staffordshire will have the effect of putting an end to the unfortunate state of affairs which has been prevailing there, and that the men will now see the propriety and advantage of returning to their work at once. This will give an impetus to the iron trade, which has been at a standstill for some time, and cause a little more activity to prevail in the market. Orders from India still continue to come in but slowly, and generally orders from abroad are by no means so numerous as could be wished, still we trust that with so easy a money market as is now ruling, and the facilities which are thus afforded for entering into commercial operations, we shall see a better state of things arising ere long, although we fear that some time must elapse before we shall have the metal market in a very flourishing condition.

COPPER.—The market is rather flatter than it was last week, and the demand is only moderate; manufactured can now be bought at 94 to 95.

IRON.—A special meeting of the ironmasters of North and South Staffordshire and Derbyshire was held at Wolverhampton, on Wednesday, to consider the steps to be taken relative to the Lock-out. The Chairman (Mr. W. O. Foster) announced that the North Staffordshire masters had

come to the conclusion that their purpose would be no longer served by a continuance of the lock-out, and that seeing that so much suffering was being entailed upon innocent persons, they were willing that it should be withdrawn, especially after the course which had been taken by the masters in the North of England. He would, however, state that it was the opinion of the committee that the North Staffordshire masters ought to be upheld by the masters of the South; at the same time, there was an opinion prevailing, both in and out of the committee, that the course which the masters in the North had taken made it no longer incumbent upon the masters of South Staffordshire to abide by a contract which one party to it had broken. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That the ironmasters of North Staffordshire having, by their trade resolution of April 3, released this district from the undertaking entered into with them on Feb. 16, and believing the assurance given by the men of South Staffordshire that they disapprove of the conduct of the North Staffordshire men, and that they will not assist them, directly or indirectly, during the continuance of the present strike; it is hereby resolved that the works in South Staffordshire be re-opened this 5th day of April." Although the men have not yet decided to return to work, there is not much doubt that they will generally begin next week, after a little parleying on the part of those who are now the least anxious to begin. In Welsh the ironworks continue well employed, and there are more orders on the books than has been the case for some time. The upward tendency of prices has been checked by the resolution of the North of England ironmasters to recommence operations; and buyers are holding out to the utmost rather than submit to the advanced quotations. It is generally agreed that when once the lock-out is at an end the trade will immediately return to its usual state, with the exception that makers will have the benefit of having cleared away their stocks. For the week ending March 30 the works were 1257 tons. In Swedish iron prices still remain firm. In Scotch pig-iron the market has been more than usually animated during the week. Considerable transactions have taken place, and prices have still further advanced. At the commencement of the week prices stood at 52s. 1d. to 52s. 3d. cash, and 52s. 4d. to 52s. 6d. one month, but advanced to 52s. 10d. cash, and afterwards to 53s. cash; after which, however, the market became flatter, and prices fell to 52s. 9d. cash and 53s. one month, and at the last advices had further declined to 52s. 6d. cash, and 52s. 9d. one month.

LEAD continues rather inanimate, and without any change whatever in prices.

TIN.—The market for foreign has continued to improve, and Straits has further advanced in price, transactions having taken place at 88s. cash, then at 88s. 5s., and more recently at 88s. 10s. cash, which may now be considered the present quotation. The stock in warehouse in London on April 1 was 3870 tons, against 2620 tons at the same time last year. Banca in Holland has been sold at 57s. 6d., and more recently at 58s. 6d., but transactions are not numerous. The stock in Holland on March 31 was 48,050 slabs, against 55,098 slabs at the same time last year, and the arrivals for next sale were 150,918 slabs, against 104,380 slabs at the same time last year. The demand for English is only moderate.

SPELTER.—The market has rather improved during the week, and business has been done at 19s. 7s. 6d. on the spot, and holders are now asking 19s. 10s. The stock in London on March 31 was 7365 tons, being 1210 tons less than last month.

TIN-PLATES.—Some of the makers have sold considerably of late, but at lower prices. STEEL and QUICKSILVER remain without alteration.

THE LIVERPOOL METAL MARKET—APRIL 6.

PIG-IRON has been "bulled" up to 52s. 6d., 52s. 9d. We are inclined to think the pig-iron market is sound, and prices will not decline; nevertheless, we cannot see our way to expecting any considerable improvement in price.

MANUFACTURED IRON.—The Lock-out is at last over. The South Staffordshire masters opened their works last night, and the men go in at the reduced scale of wages, pledged not to support the men on strike in North Staffordshire. This, it would seem, has been done with the sanction of the North Staffordshire masters, who do not see how the continuance of the lock-out could benefit them under existing circumstance. To our mind, the best course for the North Staffordshire masters to pursue would be to give their puddlers notice that unless they come to work at once at the drop they would be refused work altogether. If they still were obstinate, it would be only a question of time to replace them with men from other districts, and till then work could be carried on by purchasing

puddled bars from South Staffordshire; the demand for iron from that district is not so great but that plenty of puddled bars could be spared for such a purpose. Liverpool, more than any other port, is greatly inconvenienced by the strike in North Staffordshire, as the bulk of the iron manufactured in that district is either exported or consumed here. Welsh iron has been much easier the last day or two, in consequence of the expected settlement of the lock-out, and, no doubt, we shall have to report some slight reduction in prices next week. Staffordshire iron must come down, too; there is very little demand here, and a fortnight will clear off all Liverpool arrears at the various works in South Staffordshire; before the end of the month we shall see prices much what they were before the lock-out took place, and large buyers will hold off as long as possible in expectation of this. Prices quoted to-day are—Best bars, 81. 5s. to 81. 10s.; hoops, 91. 5s.; sheets, 91. 10s.; rods, 81. 10s. to 81. 15s.; bars in Wales, 61. 7s. 6d. to 61. 10s., f.o.b. less 3 per cent.

TIN.—Very little doing in English, and selling freely 4s. under smelters' quotations. We certainly have not seen the bottom price yet, for the heavy stock, both in England and Holland, combined with such a limited demand, must keep prices down.

TIN-PLATES.—Charcoals are still a drag in the market, and move very slowly at low prices. There is a somewhat better demand for cokes, but prices are wretchedly low, with very little immediate prospect of improvement; quoted at 20s. 9d. f.o.b.

COPPER.—The market is firmer, and some trade has been done at stiffer prices.

BIRMINGHAM, APRIL 7.—The re-opening of the works in South Staffordshire has produced no fresh animation in our market; some makers speak of sufficient orders, others complain of the want of them; it is one thing to open the works, and another to keep them going; it can plainly be seen that it was from no necessities of their own that the masters have renewed the employment of the men. The following are the price of the week:—Pigs, common forge, 21. 15s. to 31. 6s.; melting, 31. to 31. 7s. 6d.; mine forge, 31. 5s. to 31. 15s.; better class, 41.; hydrates, 41. 7s. 6d. to 41. 15s.; hematites, 31. 7s. 6d. to 41. 5s., according to quality; foundry, 31. 12s. 6d. to 31. 15s.; West Cumberland Hematite Company's Works, No. 1, 41.; No. 2, 31. 17s.; No. 3, 31. 15s.; No. 4, 31. 13s. 6d.; No. 5, 31. 12s. 6d., all delivered in this district; North Staffordshire, 31. to 31. 5s.; Cleveland district, grey forge, 31. 1s. 6d. to 31. 8s.; melting pigs, No. 1, 31. 7s. 6d.; No. 2, 31. 6s. 6d.; No. 3, 31. 5s. 6d., long weight, delivered in this district; Shropshire cold-blast, 41. 10s. to 51., delivered into this district; Spiegleisen, 61. 10s. to 61. 15s.; second quality, 51. 10s.; puddled steel, 121. 10s. per ton; cast steel block (raw), 17. 6s. per cwt.; cast hammer, 17. 14s. per cwt., f.o.b. at Hull; spiegleisen ore, 20s. at Rotterdam; first-class white and mottled pig steel iron, 61. per ton in Liverpool or Birmingham; ilmenite (titanic ore) for setting puddling furnaces, delivered to North of England ports, 221. 6s. per ton; cost of delivery into Derbyshire, 6s. 8d. to 10s. 5d.; delivered to North and South Staffordshire, at stations, 321. 6s. per ton, short weight, for which we are agents in above-mentioned districts; manufactured iron, marked bars, 81. 10s.; hoops, 91. 10s.; sheets, singles, 101. 6d.; doubles, 111. 10s.; lattens, 131. 6s.; angles, 81. 5s. to 91. 6s.; gas strips, 81. to 81. 10s.; nail sheets, 71. 10s. to 81. 5s.; nail rods, 71. 10s. to 71. 15, at works; the commoner makes of our district in bars are being quoted 71. 5s. to 71. 8s., at works; puddled bars, 51. 10s. to 61. 5s.; scrap bars, 61. 10s. to 71., according to quality; best puddled drawing wire, list price, 111. 10s., but makers have relaxed a further 10s., and so quote at 101. 10s.; North Staffordshire bars, 71. 10s.; best, 81. 6s.; best best, 81. 10s.; best angle iron, 81. 10s.; best T iron, 91. 6s.; best bulb iron, 91. 6s.; bridge and tram rails, 71. 15s.; best plates, 91. 10s.; best boiler plates, 91. 10s.; best stoppers, 91. 6s.; best waved hoops, 91. 5s.; rivet iron, 91. 6s.; half rounds, oval, and corner iron, 71. 10s.; tip iron, 91. 10s.; bevel iron, 81. 10s.; fencing wire, 91. 15s.; best puddled drawing wire, 101. 5s.; puddled bars, 51. 10s. to 61., delivered at Manchester, Liverpool, or this district; Welsh bars, 61. 15s.; Welsh rails, 61. 15s. to 71. 2s. 6d., at works; Welsh puddled bars, 51. 5s. to 51. 10s., delivered to stations in this district. It must be remembered that these prices are quoted as "at works," unless when otherwise specially mentioned. Charcoal billets, 101. to 131. 10s., delivered in Birmingham or Wolverhampton. *Rylands' Iron Trade Circular.*

THE TIN TRADE.—Mr. L. Th. Van Houten (Rotterdam, April 1) writes—"Our Tin Market has been quiet throughout the past month, and only small quantities changed hands at prices varying from 56s. 6d. to 57s. 6d. However, the delivery of 9640 slabs proves that the demand for export has been good. The consumption of tin on the Continent may be considered very satisfactory, though consumers are still acting with great caution. It appears that the present low price of the article does not yet attract the attention of speculators. The decline since the same date last year is 12 fl. or 20s. per ton, and since March, 1863, 20 fl. or 331. 6s. per ton. The position of Banca tin in Holland on March 31, from the official returns published by the Dutch Trading Company, is:—

1865.	1864.	1863.	1862.	
Stock in Holland, Feb. 29	Slabs 57,690	..... 61,183	..... 61,740	
Delivered during March	..... 9,640	..... 6,085	..... 7,650	
Stock on warrants, March 31	49,050	..... 55,098	..... 44,090	
Arrived towards next sale	150,918	..... 102,026	..... 95,955	
Total tons	226	..... 226	..... 226	
Jan. IMPORT.	Twelve months.			
1865.	1864.	1863.	1862.	
From Java..... Tons 899	512	5746	3488	..... 6111
" England..... 26	1	299	220	..... 184
" Other countries..... 1	2	16	22	..... 7
Total tons.....	926	..... 6061	..... 3700	..... 5302
Jan. EXPORT.	Twelve months.			
1865.	1864.	1863.	1862.	
To Germany..... Tons 72	59	1794	1475	..... 1825
" Belgium..... 44	17	462	246	..... 235
" England..... 15	—	1343	649	..... 1126
" France..... 27	16	968	755	..... 1116
" Hamburg..... —	—	192	147	..... 1264
" America..... —	—	21	34	..... 299
" Other countries..... 4	6	381	368	..... 255
Total tons.....	165	..... 98	..... 5161	..... 5110

THE TIN TRADE.—A larger business has been done in this metal than for some time past; but in the face of an excellent demand, both for consumption and export, the prices have fallen fully 21. per ton. At one time, indeed, the decline threatened to become serious, but the steady buying of important parcels stopped the fall, and prices have recovered 20s. again from their lowest point. The actual position of the article remains unchanged from last month, but the supplies advised fully equal the large consumption, as shown by the deliveries; but the opinion is more general that, the present price being low, the article is becoming worthy of attention for investment. We must not, however, forget that we cannot tell where the bottom is, nor is it certain we have touched it yet, that the excess in stock, both here and in Holland, must cause any improvement to be very gradual, and that prices in Penang and Singapore, drooping as they are, seem to have no effect in stopping the shipments home, in fact that they are only limited by want of ship-room. The arrivals of Banca during March into Holland have been large, while the deliveries have been of an average character; already over 150,000 slabs have arrived towards the next sale, which promises to be larger than usual. At present, in the face of these facts, Banca is kept up about 10s. above the price of Straits tin; the result is that Straits is steadily filling the place of Banca, and will continue to do so more and more, as a certainty, so long as the difference in price so much exceeds the difference in value. It is difficult to obtain reports that we can trust regarding the production of English; but as the demand must have been checked by the relative high prices, we should think the stock in Cornwall has been accumulating in smelters' hands, and that any increased demand would be supplied without any difficulty. The quantity of tin here and in Holland on March 31 was as follows, compared with the three preceding years:—

1865.	1864.	1863.	1862.
Slabs. Tons.	Slabs. Tons.	Slabs. Tons.	Slabs. Tons.
Stock in Holland	48,050	55,098	1870
Arrived for next sale.	150,918	103,522	3530
Stock here	370	2620	

WATSON AND CUELL'S MINING CIRCULAR.

WATSON AND CUELL,
MINING AGENTS, STOCK AND SHARE DEALERS, &c.,
1, ST. MICHAEL'S ALLEY, CORNHILL, LONDON.

Messrs. WATSON and CUELL having made arrangements for transferring their weekly Circular, which has had so large a circulation during the past ten years, to the columns of the *Mining Journal*, their special reports and remarks upon Mines and Mining, and the state of the Share Market, will in future appear in this column.

In the year 1843, when Cornish mining was almost unknown to the general public, attention was first called to its advantages, when properly conducted, in the "Compendium of British Mining," commenced in 1837, and published in 1843, by Mr. J. Y. Watson, F.G.S., author of "Gleanings among Mines and Miners," "Records of Ancient Mining," "Cornish Notes" (first series, 1862), "Cornish Notes" (second series, 1863), "The Progress of Mining," with Statistics of the Mining Interest, annually for 21 years, &c., &c. In the Compendium published in 1843 Mr. Watson was the first to recommend the system of a "division of small risks in several mines, ensuring success in the aggregate," and Messrs. Watson and Cuell have always a selected list on hand. Perhaps at no former period in the annals of mining has there been more peculiar need of honest and experienced advice in regard to mines and share-dealing than there is at present; and, from the lengthened experience of Messrs. Watson and Cuell, they are emboldened to offer, thus publicly, their best services to all connected with mines or the market, as they have for so many years done privately, through the medium of their own Circular.

Messrs. WATSON and CUELL transact business in the purchase and sale of mining shares, and other securities, payments of calls, receipt, and transmission of dividends, obtaining information for clients, and affording advice, to the best of their knowledge and judgment, based on the experience of more than 30 years active connection with the Mining Market.

Messrs. WATSON and CUELL also inform their clients and the public, that they transact business in the public funds, railways, docks, insurance, and every other description of shares dealt in on the Stock Exchange.

Messrs. WATSON and CUELL are almost daily asked their opinion of particular mines, as well as to *recommend* mines to invest or speculate in, and they give their advice and recommend mines to the best of their judgment and ability, founded on the best practical advice they can obtain from the mining districts, but they will not be held responsible, nor subject to blame, if results do not always equal the expectations they may have held out in a property so fluctuating as mining.

Messrs. WATSON and CUELL having agents and correspondents in all the mining districts, and an extensive connection among the largest holders of mining property, have the more confidence in tendering their advice on all matters relating to the state and prospects of mines and mining companies, and are enabled to supply shares in all the best mines at close market prices, free of all charges for commission.

CHANGES.—Two very notable instances have occurred this week illustrating the old saying, that "it is never so dark as just before the dawn." North Dolcoath shares were at 1s., and even given away, a week or two since. This week, owing to an improvement, they have been sold as high as 25s. East Gunnislake shares were sold on Friday last at 7s., and on Monday rose to 32. 5s. buyers. The discovery here is on a lode running through Old Gunnislake, and also Wheal Crebor, the sett being situated between these two mines. Old Gunnislake shares have risen to 15s., 20s., on 5s. paid, though we had a difficulty in persuading the public to take them up at par. The mine is as good a speculation, and in better ground, than East Gunnislake.

WHEAL TRUSCOTT.—Captain Richards, of Hingston Down, says of this mine—"The north lode, now wrought on to a depth of 14 fathoms, is one of very great promise, being about 5 feet wide, containing very strong capes, congenital quartz, and an abundance of gossan, with rich copper ore disseminated throughout, altogether presenting such an appearance as to expect large quantities of ore by a very little further exploration." The ore broken from the lode at present is, he adds, "of a very rich description; in fact, equal to any I have ever seen." The agent of Frank Mills, who inspected it this month, says—"It gradually improves in depth, and is as fine a lode as can be seen in any mine at that depth (14 fathoms). Several tons of copper ore have, according to another agent, Captain Rowe, been broken to this depth, and as this is the lode which will be intersected 25 fathoms deep, without any further call upon the shareholders, we think it must be allowed that a more favourable opportunity has seldom offered for embarking in a sound legitimate undertaking, where the loss cannot be much, while the chances are of a high order for very large profits. The dues are only 1-18th, and there is ample water-power for working the mine, rendering the heavy costs for steam-engines, &c., unnecessary. Several gentlemen have applied to us for *allotments* of shares, as if the concern were a new one, instead of one worked at considerable expenditure for some time, and a valuable discovery made. We stated at the first that Mr. Wescombe, looking upon it as the best sett he had ever seen in his life, and the reports of practical agents confirming the value of the discovery in the shaft, had, at his own risk, purchased the majority of the shares, and authorised us to offer what he meant to dispose of at 17. 10s. The balance of capital in hand for working is 650/., or enough for six months."

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This valuable mine is situated in the parish of Gwennap, Cornwall, on the northern side of Carn Marth Hill, a sister and adjoining hill to Carn Brea, on the northern side of which the celebrated Carn Brea Mines are situated, in one of the first mining districts in Cornwall, in a stratification productive of the greatest courses of ore in that celebrated county, in confirmation of which it is only necessary to quote the following statistics.—Carn Brea, Tinnerhoff, Cook's Kitchen, and Dolcoath have returned upwards of £900,000 profits; Wheal Buller and Basset, Great South Treligus, East Pool, Crofty, and South Roscar, £450,000; South Treligus, North Pool, North Roscar, Soton, and West Soton Mines, £500,000. These mines are situated to the west. To the east are the Gwennap Mines, one of which (the United Mines) returned £2,000,000; Wheal Jewel, £450,000; Poldine, £300,000; Wheal Clifford, celebrated for its hot lode and riches, and other productive mines. To the south, is Tresavean, which returned £151,422; Penstruthal, £130,000 in dividends. To the north, are North Downs, Wheal Rose, Harmony, Montague, and the Treligus, which returned £250,000.

The lodes of many of these extraordinary mines traverse West Trelawny. The successful development of this property is, therefore, a matter of apparent certainty from its analogy to its rich neighbours, it being merely a matter of sinking to the depth at which the riches in the other mines have been found to exist. The lodes have already been opened on superficially, and their general character, size, bearing, and appearance destroy any uncertainty as to this expectation. One lode in particular, which is from 4 to 5 feet wide, is of a most splendid character, containing large quantities of gossan, which experience has proved to be a reliable indication of rich deposits in depth.

With such a situation as this mine possesses, being literally surrounded by mines of renowned wealth, it will be at once seen that the prospects of this company are free of the ordinary risk of mining enterprise; and its further development appears to be certain of similar discoveries, and of consequent profit to shareholders. It is in a state of infancy with regard to depth, being only 50 fms. from surface. This level can be continued eastward on the course of two lodes in virgin ground, which will also give a high range of backs, without the aid of machinery, to the depth of 70 fms. Two shafts are in good repair and available, and the operations can be carried on at a trifling expense. It is proposed to effectually develop the mine by sinking a shaft in the middle of the sett, which will command the junction of two lodes; and as junctions of lodes are of the first importance in mining, leading to ores in vast quantities, the greatest expectation, according to universal experience, may be safely relied upon.

The natural advantages of the property are highly favourable to inexpensive exploration, the water being drained to a great extent by surrounding mines, thus preventing the necessity of heavy and costly machinery.

The property has been inspected by the following eminent practical men, whose opinions are unanimous as to the great value of the property, and its certain prospect of becoming a most lucrative undertaking.—Capt. Pope, manager of Wheal Basset; Capt. J. Mass, inspecting agent for Messrs. Webb, Geach, and Pennington; Capt. Edwards, late manager of Wheal Kitty (St. Agnes); Capt. Webb, manager of the Cathedral Mine; Capt. Glasson, manager of the Cilgib and Wentworth Mines.

Subjoined are extracts from their reports. Detailed copies may be had on application.

EXTRACTS REFERRED TO.

I have every reason to think that this property, if properly explored, will make a profitable and lasting mine. I recommend it with confidence to any gentlemen inclined to speculate in mining.

Captain POPE.

Taking into consideration the number of lodes running through the property, and the surrounding mines having yielded such riches, I believe it to be a really good speculation, on which development will be found to richly remunerate the shareholders.

Captain HENRY JAMES.

I consider this property well worthy the attention of capitalists, as in all probability it will only require a moderate capital to bring it into a profitable state of working.

Captain EDWARDS.

In conclusion, I can most safely recommend the mine as an investment free from the ordinary risks of mining, and I am firmly convinced that whoever works West Trelawny will be most amply rewarded for their outlay.

Captain J. WEBB.

After carefully considering the surface of this property, with its character in the adit 80 fms. deep, I consider it a mining property of more than ordinary merit, the development of which I feel confident will prove a great success.

Captain GLASSON.

March 13, 1865.—A careful inspection of this mine, both underground and surface, enables me to pronounce it to be a most splendid property. Having regard to its situation, being completely surrounded by the richest mines of our famous county, and to its own mineralogical features, the lodes being of the same character precisely as its neighbours, I see no chance of its becoming equal to any value. If it will be strange and unaccountable if the mine does not prove exceedingly rich. If my judgment prove wrong, I shall consider my thirty years' experience of no avail in forming a conclusion.

ELISHA HARVEY.

Applications for shares must be addressed to Messrs. HARVEY and Co., the financial agents to the company, Clarence Chambers, Manchester.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of the West Trelawny Mining Company (Limited).

10,000 shares of £3 each.

GENTLEMEN, I request you to allot me shares of £3 each in the above company, which I hereby agree to accept, subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company; and I herewith send £1, being the amount of first instalment of 10s. per share payable on the same.

Name Address Profession or business R.

Dated day of 1865.

ELISHA HARVEY.

Applications for shares must be addressed to Messrs. HARVEY and Co., the financial agents to the company, Clarence Chambers, Manchester.

THE DEVON GREAT MARIA CONSOLIDATED COPPER MINING COMPANY (LIMITED).

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Deposit £1 per share upon application, and £1 per share upon allotment.

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PROSPECTUS.

This company has been formed for the purpose of working an extensive mineral property, situated immediately to the west of the celebrated Devon Great Consols, which, upon an outlay

1,791L, against 18,590L, and from the West Coast of Africa 23,999L, against 11,435L. From Gibraltar we had 8033L; from Malta, 2367L; from British possessions in South Africa, 3198L; and from Turkey, 541L, without any exports of specie, or the precious metals, to those four respective places. There was no interchanges with Russia or British Columbia.

The Bill providing for the OFFICIAL SUPERVISION OF METALLIFEROUS MINES, brought into the House of Lords by Lord KINNAIRD, to which reference was made in the MINING JOURNAL of last week, has now been printed; and, assuming the necessity of legislation on the subject at all to be admitted, it is undoubtedly as just and unobjectionable as could be desired. His Lordship thoroughly appreciates the difficulties connected with metalliferous mining, and it is desirous that nothing should be done which would in any way interfere with the profitable working of the mines; but he feels, and his feelings are participated in by many who have large pecuniary interests involved, that means might be adopted for obtaining increased security to the life and health of the working miners, without material inconvenience to the mine adventurers. Whether this feeling is so general as to secure the enactment of the Bill remains to be seen; but it cannot be denied that the Bill is so framed that, provided a mine be managed as our most esteemed Cornish mine agents would manage it, the very existence of the official supervision will scarcely be felt, although there is full power to reach careless and incompetent agents, and enforce either the proper carrying on or stoppage of their workings. The Bill comprises thirty-four clauses, and that its provisions may be thoroughly understood, we subjoin an abstract:—

The preamble states that it is just and proper that provision should be made for enabling metalliferous miners to work with greater regard to health and safety.

1.—The Act may be cited as "The Metalliferous Mines Act, 1865."

2.—Interpretation: Mine means all mines not included in the (Coal) "Mines Inspection Act, 1860," and includes both surface and underground works. Owner means ad-

ditional or lesser, and not owner of royalty merely. Agent means captain or manager.

Inspector means working miner. The Board means the Board of Trade. The Inspector means the person representing the Board. And so on.

3.—General rules to apply to all mines: 1. An adequate amount of ventilation shall at all times exist to be produced in every mine, so as to render the air therein pure and wholesome, and in a fit state for every miner employed in such mine to work in and pass into and from the mine with due regard to health and safety. —2. From and after the day of 1865, the Board may, by any notice under the hand of the secretary or other officer of the Board, require the owner of any particular mine to provide mechanical means for lowering and raising the miners, and may also in any such notice prescribe the length and inclination of ladders, and the extent to which any such ladders, or any stropes, ropes, or other tackle may be used for that purpose, and what sashes or rests are to be provided when such last-mentioned means, or any of them, are employed; and it shall not be lawful to work the particular mine referred to in such notice in any other manner or way, except during such time as, from unavoidable accident, any such mechanical means provided for the purposes aforesaid are out of repair, and only during such time as may be necessary to put the same into proper repair.

3.—Flanges or Horns of sufficient length and diameter shall be attached to the drum of every machine used for lowering or raising any miner in the mine in any cage or other machine provided for that purpose. —4. A proper indicator to show the position of the cage or other similar machine in the shaft used for lowering or raising miners, and an adequate break, shall also be attached to every such cage or other similar machine. —5. A sufficient cover overhead to any skip or cage shall be used when lowering or raising any miner in any shaft of a mine, when required by the Board. —6. No single-linked chain shall be used in lowering or raising any miner in any shaft of the mine. —7. Every main shaft of a mine used by miners for passing up or down, or in which they are lowered or raised, shall be fenced or separated from any part of the same shaft used for other working purposes. —8. Every part of a mine used, or which may be used, as a footway in passing from one part of the mine to another part thereof shall be fenced. —9. Every shaft of a mine used for working purposes, or by miners for passing up or down, or in which they are lowered or raised, in which the natural strata are not safe, shall always be securely cased or lined, and every shaft used for any such working or other purposes shall also be kept provided with some proper means of communicating distinct and definite signals from the bottom of the shaft to the surface, and from the surface to the bottom of the shaft. —10. Every shaft of a mine not in actual use in working the mine shall be fenced at the mouth thereof. —11. All entrances to or outlets from any underground part of a mine, and every winze, sump, or shoot in a mine not in actual course of working, extension, or use, shall at all times, while not in course of working, extension, or use, be properly and securely built up, unless the contrary is required for aiding ventilation, or for access or for other purposes connected with the working of the mine; and in case the same or any of them are required for aiding ventilation, or for such access, or other purposes, then the same, or such of them as are so required, shall be fenced. —12. Sufficient accommodation shall be provided by the owner of every mine for enabling every miner employed therewith conveniently to dry and change his dress at such distance from any footway or entrance to the mine as may be prescribed by the Board. —13. Every steam-boiler in use at or in any mine shall be provided with a proper steam-gauge, a whistle, and with proper water-gauges and safety-valves. —14. The fly-wheel of every engine in use in or at the mine shall always be fenced. —15. No person under the age of years complete shall have the charge or control of any engine or other machine used for passing any miner up or down the mine. —16. No person under the age of years complete shall be permitted to do any underground work in any mine, unless such person shall have been similarly employed at the same mine for six months continuously immediately prior to the date of the commencement of this Act.

4.—At each mine Special Rules applicable to the particular mine only are also to be established, their object being the further prevention of dangerous accidents at the mine, the improvement of the health of the miners, and the regulation of deductions from wages (for medical aid, for support during sickness, or on occurrence of accidents, for materials supplied, spades, &c., &c.). These rules are to be thus established:—The owner may frame a code, and transmit a printed copy to the Board for approval, after exposing it on the mine for 14 days. If the Board object, or propose amendments, the owner must decline to admit them within 30 days. When the owner and the Board disagree the rules are to be settled by arbitrators mutually appointed. The award is to be made within 30 days. The Special Rules can be amended by a similar process.

5.—In case of failure of owner to transmit copy, to appoint arbitrators, or failure of arbitrators to make award, the Board may frame Special Rules, which are at once to have force.

6.—The General and the Special Rules are to be printed, and hung up in a conspicuous part of the principal place of business of the mine, and at the place where the miners are paid their wages, and a printed copy of the rules are to be supplied free to every miner asking for it.

7.—The signature of an officer of the Board is sufficient evidence of the Special Rules being duly established for the mine to which they purport to relate.

8.—An arbitrator or umpire must not be a shareholder or otherwise beneficially interested in any mine, nor engaged in the mine to which the arbitration specially relates.

9.—Every arbitrator and umpire is to have the same powers and facilities at the particular mine as an inspector has at any mine.

10.—The expenses of arbitration are to be paid half by the owner and half by Her Majesty's Treasury.

11.—The owner must within a fixed time deposit at the office of the Board:—1. A map, plan, and section, on the same scale as that used at the mine (scale not less than 100 ft. to 1 inch), with the scale and date marked thereon; it must show the whole workings, whether in work or not, and also what shafts, winzes, sumps, or shoots of the mine are built or boarded up or fenced for ventilation, or for the prevention of accidents, and what shafts and how much thereof are provided solely with ladders, stropes, or ropes merely, for ascending or descending. —2. A surface plan and section not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to the foot of the several buildings and erections provided for the convenience and comfort of the miners employed at the mine, showing the distances from the several footways and entrances to the mine, and the scale and date. —3. At the expiration of every month, continuation plans and sections, showing connections, work done, alterations made, &c. —4. Plans and sections of newly-opened mines must be deposited on July 1 first occurring. —When plans and sections are already in the Mining Record Office, the Board may give certificate to send in continuation plans only.

12.—The mouths of all disused shafts must be fenced or filled up by the owner or by the proprietor of the soil, as shall be required by the Board. Notice by post is sufficient service.

13.—The Board may appoint an Inspector or Inspectors for such time, and for such general or special purpose as they may fix and determine. The signature of an officer of the Board is sufficient evidence of appointment. The remuneration and expenses are to be paid by the Treasury.

14.—In addition to any special powers conferred by the Board, an inspector may, at all reasonable times, enter, examine, and inspect every mine, and may make enquiry by personal examination, or the examination of the agent or any miner employed, touching the condition of the mine and the mode of working and ventilating, and into all matters relating to the health and safety of the miners, and as to whether the provisions of the Act have been observed. The owner or agent must give facilities.

15.—An inspector appointed for a special purpose must on the completion of his examination and enquiry give his opinion in writing, with the facts upon which that opinion is founded.

16.—Every inspector appointed for general purposes must by March 1 of each year make a report in writing of his proceedings for the preceding year.

17.—The Board must annually report to Parliament their proceedings under the Act.

18.—If the Board considers the ventilation defective and inadequate within the meaning of the Act, or that there are other dangerous defects contrary thereto, the Board may give notice for the same to be remedied, within a fixed time, as they may direct. Except as to ventilation, this enactment does not apply to anything provided for in the General or Special Rules.

19.—Inflicts a penalty for non-compliance with foregoing notice, unless memorial of grounds of objection, with request to have the dispute settled by arbitration, be sent to the Board by the owner within 10 days. The arbitration is to be arranged in the same manner as in settling the Special Rules.

20.—If the owner refuses to comply with the award after receiving notice thereof from the Board, he subjects himself to a penalty for neglect.

21.—In case no award is made within three months, the Board may appoint two other arbitrators and an umpire, and their decision is to be final. But the Board may extend the time for making the award if expedient.

22.—Will contain the penalties which will be in the shape of fines, for infringement of the Act.

23.—Penalties may be recovered by the Inspector, or other authorised officer of the Board, or in Scotland by the Procurator Fiscal.

24.—Offences are to be tried and penalties recovered before two Justices of the Peace in England, or in Scotland before two Justices or the Sheriff.

25.—Prosecutions in England and Wales to be under "Summary Conviction and Orders Act" of 11 and 12 Vict., and in Scotland under "Summary Procedure Act, 1864."

26.—The Justices or Sheriff may order costs against the offender.

27.—Summons taken against the company in the name by which it is usually known is sufficient, the names of partners need not be set forth.

28.—Delivery of a summons at the office or counting-house of the mine is to be sufficient service.

29.—Where it shall be proved that the offence has been committed by the agent, workman, or contractor, and without the concurrence or knowledge of the owner, such agent, workman, or contractor is to be liable for the penalties.

30.—All penalties or money forfeited under any proceedings under this Act are to be remitted to the credit of the Board, and the Board may apply the whole or any part of such

sums to the benefit of miners, acting under the laws for the time being in force with respect to Friendly Societies.

31.—Notice of every accident, stating probable cause, resulting either in loss of life or personal injury is to be given within 24 hours by letter through the post, in England to the Board, and in Scotland to the Lord Advocate. The penalty for non-compliance is not exceeding Twenty Pounds.

32.—Every coroner holding an inquest in England must, unless a representative of the Board of Trade be present, adjourn the inquest, and give the Board four days' notice of date of adjournment. But before the adjournment evidence may be taken to identify the body when interment may be ordered.

33.—The Superior Courts may stop the working of a mine by injunction upon proof that it cannot be worked without such habitual violation of the Act as to defeat its objects.

34.—The Act is to commence from December 31 next.

The care which has been taken in framing the Bill, to provide the greatest possible efficiency in working the mines with the least possible inconvenience to the miners, will be apparent upon the most cursory perusal of the above abstract, and Lord KINNAIRD has given such an explanation of the objects of the several provisions, which might at first sight appear to be unnecessary as applied to metalliferous mines, that he has afforded the fullest opportunity to those opposed to the measure to bring forward the most forcible arguments at their disposal against its enactment. Passing over the Preamble and Interpretation Clause, his Lordship has felt that the first question likely to arise with reference to the Bill is upon the first General Rule, it being necessary to decide what an adequate amount of ventilation is. But the difficulty upon this point disappears when it is considered that the decision will rest with practical miners, and that, owing to the absence of explosive gases in metalliferous mines, the trouble of complying with the requirements of the rules is materially lessened. Again, the Board may, by the second General Rule, require the owner of any particular mine to provide mechanical means for lowering and raising the miners, but from the latter part of the rule it is evident that it is only intended to require mechanical lifting when it would be attended with economy and advantage, and to enable the Board to require the use of approved arrangements for safety in the shape of sashes, &c., when ladders are used.

With regard to the Special Rules, it is simply proposed by his Lordship that the regulations which practical mine agents would, by verbal instructions, at present enforce as requisite for the general safety of the miners, shall be embodied in a formal code, in order that the infringement of them by those by whom they should be observed may be more readily prevented, and that all mines may thus be secured the advantages in respect of health and safety which the best managed mines already possess. The provision of the Act, that working plans and sections shall be deposited in the Mining Record Office is simply the requirement that all mines shall compulsorily do that which many have already done voluntarily; it may be urged, moreover, that since the holders of mine shares are now to be found in every corner of the kingdom, it will be generally regarded as an advantage to be enabled to inspect authenticated plans and sections at a public office in London.

But whilst his Lordship has taken especial care to ensure, as far as practicable, the judicious and proper working of the mines, and thus given ample evidence that the health and welfare of the working miner has been his great consideration, he has certainly endeavoured to make such arrangements as shall be conducive not only to the health and safety of the miner, but also to the benefit of the mine adventurer or capitalist engaged in working the property; and it is much to be hoped that the result will be satisfactory, and that the sole object of the Act is to place mining enterprise upon a firmer basis, and to protect those engaged in it, is obvious, from the fact that even the penalties inflicted by the Act are to be applied for the miners' benefit. The thirtieth clause, enacting that all penalties and moneys recovered under the Act are to be banked to the Board, and may be applied in such manner as the Board may think best for the establishment or encouragement of societies for the benefit of miners acting under the law for the time being in force with respect to Friendly Societies, will alone afford a great inducement to all to see that the provisions of the Act are complied with, since apart from the feeling that its operation must be productive of increased safety, there will be additional knowledge that every penalty recovered will add something to the fund for the benefit of miners unfortunately disabled. We trust that if the Bill becomes law the anticipations of Lord KINNAIRD as to its working will be fulfilled; and, as his Lordship is most desirous that the provisions of the Bill should be thoroughly considered and discussed by all interested before it is enacted, we shall be glad to give publicity to the views of all our readers who are practically acquainted with mining upon its various clauses, whether they may consider them desirable or otherwise.

4.—At each mine Special Rules applicable to the particular mine only are also to be established, their object being the further prevention of dangerous accidents at the mine, the improvement of the health of the miners, and the regulation of deductions from wages (for medical aid, for support during sickness, or on occurrence of accidents, for materials supplied, spades, &c., &c.). These rules are to be thus established:—The owner may frame a code, and transmit a printed copy to the Board for approval, after exposing it on the mine for 14 days. If the Board object, or propose amendments, the owner must decline to admit them within 30 days. When the owner and the Board disagree the rules are to be settled by arbitrators mutually appointed. The award is to be made within 30 days. The Special Rules can be amended by a similar process.

5.—In case of failure of owner to transmit copy, to appoint arbitrators, or failure of arbitrators to make award, the Board may frame Special Rules, which are at once to have force.

6.—The General and the Special Rules are to be printed, and hung up in a conspicuous part of the principal place of business of the mine, and at the place where the miners are paid their wages, and a printed copy of the rules are to be supplied free to every miner asking for it.

7.—The signature of an officer of the Board is sufficient evidence of the Special Rules being duly established for the mine to which they purport to relate.

8.—An arbitrator or umpire must not be a shareholder or otherwise beneficially interested in any mine, nor engaged in the mine to which the arbitration specially relates.

9.—Every arbitrator and umpire is to have the same powers and facilities at the particular mine as an inspector has at any mine.

10.—The expenses of arbitration are to be paid half by the owner and half by Her Majesty's Treasury.

11.—The owner must within a fixed time deposit at the office of the Board:—1. A map, plan, and section, on the same scale as that used at the mine (scale not less than 100 ft. to 1 inch), with the scale and date marked thereon; it must show the whole workings, whether in work or not, and also what shafts, winzes, sumps, or shoots of the mine are built or boarded up or fenced for ventilation, or for the prevention of accidents, and what shafts and how much thereof are provided solely with ladders, stropes, or ropes merely, for ascending or descending. —2. A surface plan and section not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to the foot of the several buildings and erections provided for the convenience and comfort of the miners employed at the mine, showing the distances from the several footways and entrances to the mine, and the scale and date. —3. At the expiration of every month, continuation plans and sections, showing connections, work done, alterations made, &c. —4. Plans and sections of newly-opened mines must be deposited on July 1 first occurring. —When plans and sections are already in the Mining Record Office, the Board may give certificate to send in continuation plans only.

12.—The mouths of all disused shafts must be fenced or filled up by the owner or by the proprietor of the soil, as shall be required by the Board. Notice by post is sufficient service.

13.—The Board may appoint an Inspector or Inspectors for such time, and for such general or special purpose as they may fix and determine. The signature of an officer of the Board is sufficient evidence of appointment. The remuneration and expenses are to be paid by the Treasury.

14.—In addition to any special powers conferred by the Board, an inspector may, at all reasonable times, enter, examine, and inspect every mine, and may make enquiry by personal examination, or the examination of the agent or any miner employed, touching the condition of the mine and the mode of working and ventilating, and into all matters relating to the health and safety of the miners, and as to whether the provisions of the Act have been observed. The owner or agent must give facilities.

15.—An inspector appointed for a special purpose must on the completion of his examination and enquiry give his opinion in writing, with the facts upon which that opinion is founded.

16.—Every inspector appointed for general purposes must by March 1 of each year make a report in writing of his proceedings for the preceding year.

17.—The Board must annually report to Parliament their proceedings under the Act.

18.—If the Board considers the ventilation defective and inadequate within the meaning of the Act, or that there are other dangerous defects contrary thereto, the Board may give notice for the same to be remedied, within a fixed time, as they may direct. Except as to ventilation, this enactment does not apply to anything provided for in the General or Special Rules.

19.—Inflicts a penalty for non-compliance with foregoing notice, unless memorial of grounds of objection, with request to have the dispute settled by arbitration, be sent to the Board by the owner within 10 days. The arbitration is to be arranged in the same manner as in settling the Special Rules.

20.—If the owner refuses to comply with the award after receiving notice thereof from the Board, he subjects himself to a penalty for neglect.

21.—In case no award is made within three months, the Board may appoint two other arbitrators and an umpire, and their decision is to be final. But the Board may extend the time for making the award if expedient.

22.—Will contain the penalties which will be in the shape of fines, for infringement of the Act.

23.—Penalties may be recovered by the Inspector, or other authorised officer of the Board, or in Scotland by the Procurator Fiscal.

24.—Offences are to be tried and penalties recovered before two Justices of the Peace in England, or in Scotland before two Justices or the Sheriff.

25.—Prosecutions in England and Wales to be under "Summary Conviction and Orders Act" of 11 and 12 Vict., and in Scotland under "Summary Procedure Act, 1864."

26.—The Justices or Sheriff may order costs against the offender.

27.—Summons taken against the company in the name by which it is usually known is sufficient, the names of partners need not be set forth.

28.—Delivery of a summons at the office or counting-house of the mine is to be sufficient service.

29.—Where it shall be proved that the offence has been committed by the agent, workman, or contractor, and without the concurrence or knowledge of the owner, such agent, workman, or contractor is to be liable for the penalties.

30.—All penalties or money forfeited under any proceedings under this Act are to be remitted to the credit of the Board, and the Board may apply the whole or any part of such

sums to the benefit of miners, acting under the laws for the time being in force with respect to Friendly Societies.

31.—Notice of every accident, stating probable cause, resulting either in loss of life or personal injury is to be given within 24 hours by letter through the post, in England to the Board, and in Scotland to the Lord Advocate. The penalty for non-compliance is not exceeding Twenty Pounds.

32.—Every coroner holding an inquest in England must, unless a representative of the Board of Trade be present, adjourn the inquest, and give the Board four days' notice of date of adjournment. But before the adjournment evidence may be taken to identify the body when interment may be ordered.

Mr. Bailey; however, positively refused to grant an advance, and the men wisely refrained from resorting to a turn-out.

A case of some importance to colliery proprietors and ironmasters was heard at the last Tredegar County Court, before Judge Herbert. A collier named David Price summoned John Hughes for 17. 4s. 4d. Hughes was a contractor under the Tredegar Company, and a part of the plaintiff's claim was for wages, and the remainder for club and doctor money, stopped out of his earnings. It was proved that it was customary to stop the club and doctor money was a violation of the Act; and, as the plaintiff claimed it, he had no option but to allow it. Verdict for 11s. 6d.

THE GETHIN FUND.—The third annual meeting of the committee of management of this fund has been held at Merthyr. The report for the past year stated that 36 widows and their children had been on the fund during the year, and the payments averaged 14*l.* per week. It is intended to keep the children at school until they are 14 years of age. The balance is invested in India Five per cent. stock, and the trustees were requested to sell out 500*l.* worth, in order to meet the weekly payments for the next twelve months.

THE TIN-PLATE TRADE.—The quarterly meeting of the Tin-Plate Association was held on Wednesday, at the Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham. In the absence of Mr. Woodruffe, the Chairman, through illness, Mr. Saunders, of Cookley, Kidderminster, was voted to the chair. From the discussion which took place it appeared that the charcoal trade is in an exceedingly unsatisfactory state, and it is evident that the coke plate, mainly from its cheapness, is gradually superseding the charcoal. For coke plates at a certain price there is a fair demand. Quotations were nominally allowed to remain as fixed at a previous quarterly meeting. The American demand has not improved, and it was generally agreed that the greatest uncertainty prevails as to the future trade with that country. Stocks of plates, as compared with what was the case at the time of the last meeting, were reported as comparatively light, which is an important feature in favour of the trade. After the meeting the members dined together, as usual.

The South Wales and Great Western Direct Railway is attracting very favourable attention in the district, it being felt that the importance of affording increased facilities for sending coal to the London market cannot be overrated. The line is to run from Wootton Bassett to Chepstow, and in connection with the Great Western Railway it will constitute a line of communication by which the coal field of South Wales, hitherto only partially developed, will be opened for the supply of coal to London by a shorter route than the present, and, as it is said, by a line with gradients more suitable for mineral traffic than those of any other line in the kingdom. As the interests involved are divided, however, the opposition is likely to be great and costly. The unfortunate part of the matter is, that the opposition exists in the vicinity of the line itself, while those to be benefited are here and in London. It is objected that the bill will much interfere with the navigation of the Severn, and that the advantage to be derived (the shortening of the route by a few miles) is not so great as to justify it. It is urged, in reply, by the promoters of the measure, that the inconvenience to the shipping interests of the Severn is nothing as compared with the beneficial results to accrue to South Wales and the people of London and its neighbourhood. The great question is, how many pence per ton will be saved in the carriage of coal by the new route from South Wales to London, and whether the saving is sufficient to enable the South Wales coal to be put into the market at lower price than North Country coal. The fact is that even at present the difficulty of placing South Wales coal east of Paddington is greater in getting it from here to the Paddington depot.

REPORT FROM NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM.

APRIL 6.—Now that the Lock-out has happily terminated the ironworks of the district are being prosecuted with increased vigour, and it certainly is a most pleasant circumstance that an excellent feeling prevails throughout the works between the men and the masters. The correspondence which has taken place between the parties consequent on the lock-out, so far from causing any ill-will, has had quite a contrary effect; they have, indeed, become better acquainted, and mutual respect has been the result. It is hoped that this state of things will long continue, as the interests of the parties are most certainly identical. Generally speaking, the collieries and principal works of the district are well employed, and are proceeding satisfactorily for all parties, the owners making good profits, and the men earning better wages, than at any former period; still the feverish state of the labour market is shown by the frequent strikes on a small scale which take place. The great demand for men is, no doubt, the main cause of this, but it is much to be regretted that the men do strike without adequate cause, in many cases, when any little misunderstanding takes place. Those disputes could, in most instances, be better adjusted if the men were more cool and cautious about commencing to strike. At present a partial strike of the hands has taken place at the extensive chemical works of Messrs. Allinson, and strike has taken place at the Spring Gardens Engine-works, in Newcastle.

The extensive chemical works at Hebburn, now in course of construction for a Glasgow firm, are far advanced, and a portion of them will shortly be completed. The Tyne is at present a very busy scene, but it is destined to be vastly increased in trade and manufacture, and the opening of the coal pits included in the scheme of the Tyne Coal Company will not only increase the trade of the port, but tend materially to encourage the various manufactures on the banks of the river. As we noticed last week, the Tyne Coal Company is beginning to move; the pit to be sunk at Wallsend for the purpose of pumping the high main water is to be commenced with immediately. The shaft is to be 16 ft. in diameter, and large pumps are to be put into it for the purpose of lifting the water. Tenders are being got for the mason work necessary for the engines required. The engines, it is understood, are to be of the most improved construction, and are to be manufactured by an eminent Scotch engineer and engine-builder.

THE PROSPECTS OF IRONWORKERS IN AMERICA.—A Durham miner, John Watson, formerly of Wreckenton, has been out in Jefferson county, Ohio, eight years. Watson, writing from America, and addressing the working men of the North, says:—

"Employers and capitalists, and others interested in getting cheap labour, have sent agents and commissioners among you, who by advertisements in newspapers and publications, would make the English miner and English working man believe that America is at the present time little short of a terrestrial paradise; that here, if the millennium has not already arrived, it certainly is close at hand. Now, the motive of employers and capitalists in sending agents among you is plain. It is to overstock the labour market, and thereby reduce wages. They may tell you that we are making very high wages, which some of us may do, but they do not tell you that all things we have to buy are high also. I worked over twenty years in the coal mines of Durham and Northumberland; therefore I am well acquainted with all the evils you have to contend with. I have worked eight years in the coal mines of this country, so I think I may claim to be able to judge of a miner's life here and in England. In England you have a house and fuel for next to nothing—about 13*s.* a-year; you have medical attendance gratis in case of accidents, and at some places 5*s.* per week; you have besides, what no amount of money can buy, your friends and relations living about you, and very likely you have a snug little reading-room where you can spend your leisure hours pleasantly and profitably. On the other hand, here I have paid the last year over 90*s.* for house-rent, and about \$40 for coal; here is no medical attendance, except you pay for it; here is no smart money, here are no reading-rooms where you might pass away an hour if you had it to spare, which you might not after you have worked twelve or fourteen hours a day, if you are so lucky as to get work."

REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE, YORKSHIRE, AND LANCASHIRE.—**APRIL 6.**—The great struggle between capital and labour has terminated, and to-day the ironworks, which were closed in obedience to the resolution of Feb. 16, are re-opened. The course which the North of England masters have taken has caused much displeasure to those in these counties who kept their works closed, and the Wolverhampton resolution of yesterday has been received as nothing less than a measure of justice. During the Lock-out business has been chiefly done in old stocks, which have been pretty generally lessened. The rates are firmly maintained, and no alteration is anticipated during the next three months. It was intended to reduce the production of pig-iron in the Middlesbrough district, partly on account of the strike, but its termination will now render that step unnecessary.

The Cleveland Iron Company, whose works are situate at Whitby, have recently commenced to work a vein of ironstone 9 ft. thick, of an excellent quality, and producing an average yield of 35 per cent. The orders for rails and railway springs continue to be large, not only for home consumption, but also for export. In the heavy armour-plate trade the orders are of less extent than formed, but there is a large increase in the demand for iron shipbuilding. Throughout the whole of the iron-making districts of these countries there appears a settled determination amongst the men not to support the North Staffordshire iron-workers, and it is probable that the struggle will not be without its effect.

The Coal Trade has continued tolerably active during the strike, and now that is ended no doubt there will be an improvement. Some of the railway companies are exceedingly short of rolling stock, and the coal masters are, as a consequence, greatly inconvenienced. Complaints are made as to the detention of many laden trucks on the South Yorkshire siding at Doncaster. In Lancashire the trade is improving, consequent upon the bettered condition of the cotton trade. Many old mills have been re-opened, and it is confidently believed that the price of the raw cotton will be considerably lower. The district is assuming a more healthy appearance, and several of the relief committees' reports fully bear out this fact. The Derbyshire hard coal is in great demand, and is now successfully competing with the Welsh steam coal, the railway companies having met the coalowners in a liberal spirit with regard to transit. The production of coal in Derbyshire, which has been going on increasing at an enormous rate of late years, is likely to be further augmented during the present one. The new pits of the Clay Cross Company at Pilsley are progressing

rapidly, and as a new field has been opened in this district, a new town will shortly spring up. The Shirland Colliery is also in a forward state, and we hear that in a short time about 200 new dwellings will be erected. Some other large works are being developed on the Erewash Valley line, and when completed the production of the Erewash Valley will be largely increased. There is excellent rail-way transit for the minerals. Indeed, judging from the large acreage of minerals which have been leased or late, the whole complexion of a great portion of the Derbyshire coal field will be transferred from an agricultural country into a thoroughly mining district.

At the Yorkshire Spring Assizes (West Riding division), Matthew Hyslop, colliery engineer, was indicted for the manslaughter of William Lindley, at North Gawber Colliery, near Barnsley. It appeared that the prisoner started the cage before the signal was given, but deceased had no right in the cage, and waiting for the signal would not have prevented the accident. Mr. Justice Willes considered the accident must be looked at as a mere misadventure. It had always been his practice in cases of this kind to hold that there could be no criminal liability where there would be no civil liability. He was aware that this opinion was not universal amongst the judges, and it was his intention on the first suitable occasion to reserve the point for the consideration of the Court above. Verdict, "Not Guilty."

Henry Kitson, 40, manager, and Robert Fisher, 40, bankman, at Willcock's Colliery, Yord-road, Leeds, were tried for the manslaughter of Edward Piader. Corves were being let down whilst deceased was ascending, and a cage fell out and killed him. It was proved that Kitson had forbidden the practice in May last. The jury acquitted Kitson, and found Fisher guilty. Sentence, one month's imprisonment.

Mining matters in the Peak of Derbyshire are not assuming a very healthy appearance, and it is remarkable that the share list does not exhibit a mine, with the single exception of the Eym, in which the stock is quoted at par, the Peak Forest Mine showing the highest mercantile value. This is in the face of the report of the manager of the Mill Dam Mine, who reports that on Tuesday week they weighed 65 tons of ore, being 5 tons more than the previous weight. He also reports the work to be continuously good. There are two of the newly-formed joint-stock iron and coal companies (limited) whose stock is barely at par; there is a rumour that one of them will declare a dividend next June, and that may alter the state of things.

The local stock and share markets are somewhat flatter than usual, though money is easier.

SHEFFIELD.—We stated last week that there was every probability of the Lock-out here in the iron trade terminating at once, in consequence of the arrangement come to in the North of England. The expectation has been realised. On Saturday last the masters issued a notice that their works would be re-opened on Monday, and they were opened accordingly, the men agreeing not to support the strike in North Staffordshire. Some of the Staffordshire masters complain that the Northern masters have broken the compact upon which the lock-out was based. But for the arrangement come to in the North Staffordshire masters were prepared to have adhered to the compact until formally released. Sheffield being, however, more closely connected with the North than with Staffordshire, from the fact of the men belonging to the northern branch of the National Association, it was felt that the decision come to in the North scarcely left the Sheffield masters and men a choice. It is held, moreover, that the lock-out has in the main accomplished the object for which it was agreed upon. It was based upon the fact that the North Staffordshire men had "struck" with the connivance, and were receiving the support of, the entire association of workmen; and that the object of the strike was not merely to resist the reduction in North Staffordshire, but to defeat it in all the other districts by a succession of strikes. This important object the lock-out has, it is said, effectually defeated, leaving the North Staffordshire men to rely upon such assistance as they can obtain from other trades. It is added that, had the North Staffordshire strike been disavowed and disconvenienced by the iron workers of other districts in the first instance, the lock-out would never have taken place, and, therefore, that there is good reason for discontinuing it now. If the strike receives no more cordial support from other towns than it is likely to receive from Sheffield it cannot long continue. The Sheffield Trades' delegates, indeed, passed resolutions to support the men locked out, but the iron-workers complain that, even while the lock-out here lasted, they took no practical steps to afford assistance. The fact is that the Sheffield Trades' Societies have looked on rather coldly from the first, many altogether disapproving of the course taken by the iron-workers; and it is now asserted that they will not move further in the matter, since the lock-out here has ended, the more especially as trade here is generally depressed, and many of the Unions have a considerable number of members "on the box." The steel trade here does not improve; and, but for the railway orders, the heavy trades generally would be flat. The cutlery, plated ware, and other old staple branches are also languid, and complaints are numerous of the difficulty of obtaining payment of accounts, especially from home customers. The arrangement which we mentioned last week has been come to by Mr. Cammell and his co-directors for submitting the differences as to the value of the works to the Limited Liability Company formed a year ago, has sent up the shares to 3*s.* 4*p.*

FOREIGN MINING AND METALLURGY.

Some little business has been done in pig at St. Dizier. As regards charcoal-made pig, we may note that a lot at 4*s.* 9*s.* 8*d.* has been dealt in on the St. Dizier market. A blast-furnace of the Haute-Blaise has also succeeded in obtaining the same price. Two lots of mixed pig—the greater part coke—have been placed at an average price of 3*s.* 16*s.* per ton. Rolled iron has been dealt in without change at 8*s.* 12*s.* to 8*s.* 16*s.* per ton, according to works and orders: special irons, 8*s.* 16*s.* per ton, with a scale of 4*s.* to 8*s.* per ton class; and sheets (first category), 9*s.* 4*s.* to 9*s.* 8*d.* per ton, first-class, with a scale of 8*s.* to 16*s.* per ton, according to categories. Machine No. 20 maintains its price firmly at 9*s.* to 9*s.* 6*s.* 4*d.* per ton. Iron wire has some orders; No. 20 is quoted easily at 11*s.* 4*s.* per ton. A letter from Besançon states:—"The improvement of 8*s.* per ton established on pig of the Franche-Comté at the last quarterly meeting of forges masters has since been maintained. The demand, without having become active, has maintained a good appearance; and it is especially remarked that some establishments press producers to forward the quantities purchased at the Besançon fair. This state of affairs indicates wants of raw material, and by consequence orders to be satisfied. On the other hand, the appearance of the water-courses, which form the motive power of the great majority of the works of the Franche-Comté, assures them at present, and for two or three months to come, a satisfactory activity. These circumstances, taken together, would constitute a rather encouraging cluster of facts, if the question of the sale prices of iron and plates did not cast a rather decided shadow on the scene. Not only is there no hope of seeing these prices experience the least revival, but, on the contrary, it must be stated that for more than a month they have displayed a fresh tendency to fall, and especially as regards some articles, the sale of which is effected more especially on the Paris market. A certain number of charcoal-worked forges in the Franche-Comté group produce—and that in quantities which, taken together, form a rather important total (800 to 1000 tons per month)—the thin superior plates which find an outlet among Parisian industries. In December, this outfit experienced a decided check, which culminated in February in an almost complete stoppage of affairs. In seeking for the causes of this state of affairs it is found that the consumption has not diminished, but that during the last three months an English importation has been substituted for the French article by one or more speculators or iron merchants of the Paris market. In order to contend against this competition the forges masters of the Franche-Comté district have been obliged to make a reduction of 2*s.* per ton on their products. It is to be hoped that the abuse of the warrant system will cause it to be stopped, as it involves the gravest perturbations in metallurgical industry. The fall in price of certain kinds of plates, &c., has acted in an unfortunate manner on the sale generally of certain products of this group. Forged irons, which sold in December and January at 16*s.*, 17*s.*, 17*s.* 12*s.* per ton are now only quoted at 16*s.* 8*s.* to 17*s.* 4*s.*, rolled making 16*s.* to 17*s.* 12*s.* more, according to specimens. As regards the price of plates, it has fallen to 2*s.* 4*d.* per ton; and in any affair of importance business would even be done at slightly lower terms. It is to be hoped to have an idea of the importance which metallurgical industry can give to a district, we have only to read the following lines from the *Journal de Saône-et-Loire*, on the subject of the growth of population at Creuzot:—"Creuzot comprised in 1836 about 2700 inhabitants; in 1851 this population had grown to 16,000 souls. A fresh special census has just shown an aggregate of 22,398 persons. This commune, formerly of such little importance, has now become the most populous locality of the Saône-et-Loire; 43 departments in France do not contain so populous a town. This growth of human life is the work of industry, as Creuzot is only a vast workshop, placed in a situation of great natural beauty, and which, in the course of time, will become a great industrial centre."

Among the dividends announced we may mention a distribution of 3*s.* per share for 1864 on the shares of the Sacré-Madame Colliery Company at Dampremy. The dividend of the Charbonnage du Bois Company (at Quaregnon), for the second half of 1864, has been fixed at 4*s.* per share. The total revenue of the Monceau Blast-furnaces Company for 1864 is fixed at 2*s.* 4*d.* per share, or 11 per cent. Of this sum, 11. has been already paid on account, and the balance of 1*s.* 4*d.* per share became payable April 1. The dividend of the United Collieries Company, at Quaregnon, for 1864, is fixed at 8*s.* per share. The second dividend of the Belgian Central Public Works and Railway Plant Company, for the exercise 1863-4, is fixed at 8*s.* per share.

Rather more firmness continues to be remarked on the Belgian markets, in consequence of the disorders prevailing in several English groups. Some orders have even arrived from England; this is the first effect of these troubles. At Charleroi, tender refining pig has been quoted at 2*s.* 12*s.* per ton; mixed pig, at 3*s.* to 3*s.* 2*s.*; and hard pig at 3*s.* 8*s.* to 3*s.* 12*s.* per ton. Casting pig, No. 5, is held at 3*s.* 12*s.* per ton, with a scale of 2*s.* per number. First-class rolled iron make 6*s.* 8*s.* for No. 1; 7*s.* for No. 2; 7*s.* 12*s.* for No. 3; and 8*s.* 4*d.* for No. 4. Double T-irons, of ordinary dimensions, have made 6*s.* 16*s.*; second class, 8*s.*; third class, 10*s.*; and fourth class, 11*s.* 4*d.* Plates for ships have made 9*s.* 4*d.*; the quality used for boilers, 10*s.*; superior qualities, 10*s.* 16*s.*; and extra plates of fine-grained iron, 12*s.* 16*s.* per ton.

With reference to the Aubin Ironworks, &c., conducted by the Orleans Railway Company, we learn that last year's production compared as follows with that of 1863, 1862, and 1861:—

Year. Coal. Iron.

1861 Tons 192,931 16,179

1862 224,007 17,260

1863 224,199 19,391

1864 226,590 21,609

There is no striking change to notice this week in copper. At Paris, copper is held at an advance. English is now quoted at 90*s.*; rough Chilian at 84*s.* 10*s.*; and Corocoro mineral at 86*s.* 10*s.* per ton. Chilian copper has been firm at Havre, but has given rise to less movement; a lot of 27 tons has been sold at 84*s.* on account. On the various German markets prices are maintained with much firmness; the article has a good tone, and is in better demand. Tin has remained inactive at Rotterdam and Amsterdam; the article is languishing at 57 to 57*s.* 4*d.* per lb. At Paris, prices are nominal. The demand has been limited to the requirements of local consumption on the German markets, and in consequence of the less favourable advances from England and Holland prices are feebly supported. The demand for lead has been almost nil at Paris; rough French has fallen from 20*s.* 16*s.* to 20*s.* 12*s.*

Spanish has been quiet at 22*s.* 12*s.* At Rotterdam the article has been held at 20*s.* 16*s.* and various German marks 18*s.* 12*s.* In Hamburg there has been no change. Berlin, Cologne, and Stettin have also held at 20*s.* 16*s.* At Paris, rough Silesian zinc has been held at 20*s.* 16*s.* At Hamburg purchases have presented themselves less and less, and of late no affair has been reported. The Breslau market has remained quiet, and the ordinary rough zincs of the Vieille-Montagne Company is quoted at 19*s.* 4*d.* and 19*s.* 8*d.* per ton.

COPPER ASSAYING.

It will not be an inappropriate conclusion to the notes published in the MINING JOURNAL from Dr. PERCY's Lectures on Copper Smelting, to add thereto a sketch of the different modes of assaying copper ore, so it must be admitted that it is impossible to describe with any great exactness the assay student (ignorant of practical manipulation in the laboratory) any mode of assay, for it is by practice alone that the valuable knowledge in such matters can be acquired. Since, however, many are interested in copper, who live either by dividends from copper stocks, or by buying and selling copper ores and metals, and who have time nor opportunity for laboratory practice, and who yet desire to know something of the modes of estimating the value of the article in the ore, they are most interested, to such it can but be interesting to know, is that the smelter never pays for the exact percentage of copper in the ore, and what are the methods for estimating its commercial value. I am for the moment certain chemical modes of copper assaying, we may not know the copper in an ore is always commercially estimated by a dry assay. In the former, fire is the agent by which the metal is extracted.

Now, the wet assay is far more accurate than the dry assay, as the smelter more nearly to a chemical analysis of the ore; but since the smelter more important to ascertain what quantity of copper can be obtained from an ore, rather than the exact quantity of copper in the ore, since he requires, also, to know of what quality that copper will be he can extract, and, further, since the dry assay, in closely resembling smelters' operations on a large scale, supplies him with this information more accurately than any other process, therefore for these reasons it is adopted by smelters. One might have said that the dry mode of assay is adopted by smelters. One might have said that the process invariably adopted in speaking of the copper trade of a few years since was that copper smelting was in those days confined to England, now the case is different, for Chili and Australia have come into the market as competitors with England in this branch of metallurgy. The dry assay, which is practised alone in Cornwall and Swansea, would doubtless become the universal practice in all countries if its success did not depend rather on the experience and knowledge of the assayer than any general rules by which he can be guided. On this account, as the fact that proficiency in this dry process can only be attained by practice, it is that a knowledge of the method is confined to a few, as the process has hitherto not been generally adopted in foreign countries.

Those who have read the "Notes on Copper Smelting," from Dr. PERCY's Lectures, will be able to follow the assertion that the dry or Cornish mode of copper assaying is identical with the Swansea process of copper smelting. In the one, as in the other, the ore is first roasted, the resulting matte or regulus, which regulus is roasted, then melted for impurities, and red lead is added to the inside to bind the wire, like the wire against the steam, or an iron or mangan

APRIL 8, 1865.]

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109

ASSAYS AND ANALYSES.—Mr. JOSEPH GREEN,

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108

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118

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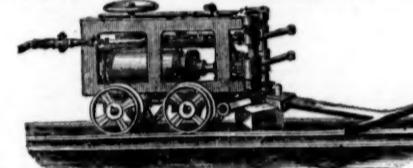
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1024 Wh. Mary Ann (lead), Menheniot [S.E.]	8 0 0.	— 67 17 6.	0 10 0—Mar.	1865	
100 Wheal Mary (tin), Lelant [S.E.]	36 2 6.	— 288 5 0.	0 4—Mar.	1864	
80 Wheal Owles (tin), St. Just, Cornwall [L.]	70 0 0.	— 343 3 0.	0 5—May,	1864	
396 Wheal Seton (tin, copper), Camborne [L.]	55 10 0.	205	.. 205 210	.. 191 15 0.	0 4—Feb.	1865	
1040 Wh. Trelawny (sil.-id.), Liskeard [S.E.]	5 17 0.	20	.. 19 20	.. 51 10 0.	0 12 6—Mar.	1865	
7000 Wicklow (copper) [L.]	2 10 0.	— 14 17 0.	0 6—Oct.	1864	

* Dividends paid every two months. † Dividends paid every three months.

BRITISH MINES WITH DIVIDENDS IN ABEYANCE.

Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last Pr.	Business.	Dividends Per Share.	Last paid
240 Bocean (tin), St. Just [L.]	20 10 0.	—	..	.. 38 10 0.	0 1 0—Mar.	1862
3000 Chiverton (lead), Perranzabuloeu [S.E.]	6 0 0.	6	5 1/2 6.	—	..	
256 Condurrow (cop., tin), Camborne [L.]	76 10 0.	5 1/2 1/2	.. 55 0.	.. 0 0 0.	0 2 0—June,	1867
2450 Cook's Kitchen (copper), Illogan [L.]	18 5 9.	7	6 7	.. 1 7 0.	0 7—May,	1862
1024 Copper Hill (copper), Redruth [L.]	12 0 0.	—	..	.. 2 7 6.	—	Sept.
1055 Craddock Moor (copper), St. Cleer [L.]	8 0 0.	—	..	.. 7 12 0.	0 4 0—July,	1862
4076 Devon and Cornwall (cop.), Tavistock [L.]	6 6 3.	15	.. 12 1/2 15	.. 10 10 0.	0 2 6—Feb.	1859
12300 Drake Wails (tin, copper), Calstock [L.]	3 1 0.	—	..	.. 18 10 0.	0 1 6—May,	1863
3000 Dwyfawn (lead), Wales [L.]	12 6 6.	—	..	.. 17 6 0.	0 2 6—Jan.	1863
940 Fowey Consols (copper), Tywardreath [L.]	4 7 6.	—	..	.. 41 9 3.	0 2 6—June,	1860
5000 Great South Tolga (copper), Redruth [L.]	0 14 6.	9 1/2—13 1/2	7 18 6.	.. 5 0 0.	0 5—Dec.	1861
1024 Gunnislake (Clitters' Adit) (copper)	0 2 0.	—	..	.. 3 0 0.	0 1 6—Mar.	1862
140 Levant (copper, tin), St. Just [L.]	2 10 0.	—	..	.. 1091 0 0.	0 5 0—May,	1860
640 Mount Pleasant (lead), Mold [L.]	0 4 0.	—	..	.. 18 18 0.	0 7 6—Aug.	1862
5000 Orsod (lead), Flintshire [L.]	0 8 0.	—	..	.. 10 10 0.	0 4 0—Mar.	1862
4400 Par Consols (cop.), St. Blazey [S.E.]	1 2 6.	—	..	.. 39 19 0.	0 2 6—Mar.	1863
1773 Polbreen (tin), St. Agnes [S.E.]	15 0 0.	—	..	.. 7 19 6.	0 10 0—Nov.	1863
613 Polbreen (tin), St. Agnes [S.E.]	8 0 0.	—	..	.. 1 0 0.	0 1 0—July,	1863
6000 Rosewall Hill and Ransom United [L.]	3 1 0.	—	..	.. 10 10 0.	0 1 6—June,	1863
8000 South Exmouth (lead), Christow [L.]	2 2 0.	—	..	.. 5 0 0.	0 4—Dec.	1862
512 South Tolgus (lead), Redruth [L.]	8 0 0.	24	—	.. 74 10 0.	0 1—May,	1863
498 S. Wh. Frances (cop.), Illogan [S.E.]	18 18 9.	45	.. 15 20	.. 370 18 6.	0 1—Nov.—1863	
280 Spears Moor (tin, copper), St. Just [L.]	32 17 9.	—	..	.. 9 15 0.	0 1—June—1862	
572 Trelyon Consols (tin), St. Just [L.]	14 10 0.	—	..	.. 7 0 0.	0 1 0 18 0—Sept.	1860
1000 Trumpet Consols (tin), near Helston [L.]	11 10 0.	—	..	.. 11 0 0.	0 2—Mar.	1862
4200 Vifrons (lead), St. Just [L.]	12 6 6.	—	..	.. 41 9 3.	0 2 6—June,	1860
5000 Great South Tolga (copper), Redruth [L.]	0 14 6.	9 1/2—13 1/2	7 18 6.	.. 5 0 0.	0 5—Dec.	1861
1024 Wh. Russell						